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Letter from the Director

Public health in Sedgwick County is more than the Health Department. Public health includes all public, private and voluntary agencies, facilities and organizations that contribute to the health of our community. Sedgwick County has a strong public health system, and the Sedgwick County Health Department (SCHD) values and relies on community partnerships to improve the community’s health. The issues facing our population today are complex, including limited patient access to healthcare and transportation, mental health stigma, increasing rates of suicide, opioid and other drug use, and chronic disease such as diabetes.

Public health grows stronger and increases effectiveness when agencies, facilities, and organizations work together to identify strategies and interventions to address disparities and other issues in our community. Together with partners, the SCHD continues to work on improving the health of Sedgwick County residents by preventing disease, promoting wellness, and protecting the public from health threats.

This year’s report highlights a number of our partnerships and the projects we worked on in 2018. I look forward to developing new partnerships and strengthening current ones.

Together we can create change.

Adrienne Byrne
Health Director

2018 AT A GLANCE:
Client Visits - 143,462
Clients Served - 57,023
Laboratory Tests - 21,556
Disease Investigations - 2,253
Animal Control Calls - 3,589
Budgeted - $12,438,186.81
Children and Family Health
Healthy Babies

The Healthy Babies Program is an educational program for prenatal and parenting families provided at no cost to participants. Registered Nurses and Community Liaison staff provide education and family support designed to improve the health and well-being of women and infants during and after pregnancy. The program also aims to reduce the rate of low birth weight babies, which contributes to infant mortality.

In 2018, Healthy Babies staff provided services to 1,248 clients through 6,603 client visits.

Healthy Babies providers work closely with parents through home visitations to address their concerns, screen for potential risk, help them successfully navigate the healthcare system and connect them to additional resources available in the community. Healthy Babies often refers expecting moms to the Baby Talk program, managed by the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita. Healthy Babies and Baby Talk are able to provide information about the risks and benefits of behaviors that affect a woman’s health before, during, and after pregnancy. Taught by nurses and physicians, the classes are free and work as stand-alone courses that can be completed in any order. Baby Talk was created to reduce Sedgwick County’s high infant mortality rate, especially among African-American infants.

Healthy Babies staff provides monthly home visits to mothers and families and regularly connects mothers to Baby Talk’s group education programs. Baby Talk staff refers pregnant women in need of additional one-on-one support and education to Healthy Babies. This approach provides increased support to pregnant women in the community.

Looking forward to 2019, Healthy Babies plans to grow their partnership by integrating the Lifting Young Families to Excellence (LYFTE) program. LYFTE provides individual support for young adults who are pregnant or who already have children to achieve education and employment goals.

Women, Infants, and Children

Sedgwick County currently provides Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program services to residents living in the Wichita community through three WIC Clinic locations. WIC offers breastfeeding peer counseling to support new mothers breastfeeding and all WIC staff educate clients on the benefits of breastfeeding.

WIC partners with Ascension Via Christi Breastfeeding Clinic and the WesleyCare Breastfeeding Clinic by referring clients to lactation consultants and providing additional lactation support services. The Clinics can help mothers with a variety of challenges, including breast engorgement, low milk supply, preparing to return to work, babies who have difficulty latching on, babies who are jaundiced, or babies who have weight gain issues. New moms are able to find advice and encouragement through the support of the breastfeeding clinics and Sedgwick County WIC.
**Children’s Dental Clinic**

The Children’s Dental Clinic has 21 volunteer dentists and specialists from Wichita that provide dental services at no cost. Several dentists provide services at the Dental Clinic; others prefer to provide treatment at their own offices. Services provided in 2018 included root canal treatment, emergency treatment, and extractions at oral surgeon’s offices. In 2018, volunteer dentists and student hygienists provided over $418,000 of donated services to eligible Sedgwick County children.

The Children’s Dental Clinic routinely collaborates with many community partners to provide restorative and preventive oral health care and education for children and their families. Community partners include: Wichita State University (WSU) Dental Hygiene students, community volunteer dentists, Federally Qualified Health Care Centers (FQHCs), and USD 259 School Nurses.

Area safety net clinics or FQHCs (HealthCore, EC Tyree, GraceMed, Guadalupe Clinic, and Hunter Health Clinic) partner with the SCHD and USD 259 to create the School Based Dental Health Collaborative (SBDHC). The SBDHC coalition ensures all state mandated school screenings are completed or have provided schools with a dental checkup sheet prior to the start of school. The Dental Clinic collaborates with USD 259 School Nurses to refer children and families to area FQHCs and other dental providers as appropriate. If a child cannot be seen at those clinics, the Dental Clinic will provide services at no cost to the family.

In 2019, the Dental Clinic is partnering with Healthy Babies and WIC staff to provide dental cleanings and education for pregnant mothers in an effort to reduce oral inflammation which can be a risk factor for preterm birth.
Health Protection

[Image of a family posing outdoors with autumn leaves in the background]
Sexually Transmitted Infection Control

Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) in the Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Control Program investigate reported syphilis- and HIV-positive individuals and their contacts to control the spread of disease. For three months in 2018, in collaboration with Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), STI Control completely overhauled the training plan for Sedgwick County DIS, decreasing travel time to Topeka by 75 percent (from 64 to 16 hours), and saving about $3,300 in grant-funded hotel and per diem expenses per DIS each year. Implemented in September 2018, the plan is now piloted by two DIS assigned to Sedgwick County. KDHE has adopted much of this plan statewide for DIS in other counties across Kansas. SCHD will evaluate the benefit and recommend improvements in 2019.

Tuberculosis Control

In 2018, in collaboration with Evergreen Park and Community Center of Wichita, nurses in the Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program developed a plan to provide TB screening and education to Evergreen Park residents during a community health fair. At the event, TB nurses provided education and the opportunity for a TB skin test to approximately 50 people.

Epidemiology

In 2018, Epidemiology (Epi) partnered with KDHE Kansas Biological Survey (KBS), City of Wichita, Wichita State University (WSU), and the Sedgwick County Master Gardeners Program to conduct Sedgwick County’s annual mosquito and West Nile virus (WNV) surveillance from May 17 through October 25, 2018. The Master Gardeners were a new partner for Epidemiology in 2018. Each week, participants set Encephalitis Vector Surveillance traps in five pre-determined locations overnight. Collected mosquitoes were sent to the KBS for counting and species identification. Areas around traps with more than 20 Culex mosquitoes, which may carry WNV, were treated by Sedgwick County Animal Control or City of Wichita Stormwater staff.

Between May and October 2018, volunteers trapped 4,497 mosquitoes (2,279 Culex mosquitoes). Three mosquito traps tested positive for WNV during the surveillance season. A total of 273 treatments were placed in standing water near trapping locations to kill mosquito larvae.
Public Health Performance

Safe Streets, a coalition of Sedgwick County residents, health professionals, media groups, and civic organizations, works to prevent drug misuse and abuse within the community. With assistance from Public Health Performance (PHP) staff, Safe Streets applied for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention’s Prescription Drug Overdose: Data-Driven Prevention Initiative (DDPI) award funding to support efforts to address the national opioid crisis. Sedgwick County was one of six Kansas counties selected to receive up to $20,000 through 2019.

With the funding, SCHD and Safe Streets will oversee an opioid misuse awareness campaign, with PHP staff providing public health and data expertise to focus efforts, and determine the effectiveness of the project. In 2019, the awareness campaign is estimated to reach 50,000 Sedgwick County residents.

Sedgwick County Animal Control

On October 2, 2018, Sedgwick County Animal Control (SCAC) partnered with Arrow Wrecker Service, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) to work the scene of an overturned semi-trailer full of livestock on Northbound I-35 near Park City, KS. KHP requested 911 dispatch SCAC Officers to the scene for containment of the livestock.

SCAC set up livestock panels to protect and contain the animals and also to protect the emergency responders and the public. SCAC Officers surrounded the semi while the doors were cut off by Arrow Wrecker Service to release the trapped cattle. KDOT and KHP managed the interstate and traffic during this time to allow SCAC Officers unfettered access to the interstate during this operation. Nearly six hours later, the combined agencies were successful in containing 92 head of cattle, including loading the cattle into a separate semi-trailer.
Preventive Health
Clinical Services at Main Clinic

The SCHD Main Clinic offers Pap tests, pelvic exams, and breast cancer screenings through the Family Planning (FP) and Early Detection Works (EDW) programs. The Pap test, which detects abnormal changes in the cervix, is the most effective tool women have to help protect them from cervical cancer. In 2018, SCHD partnered with several medical clinics to provide care for patients who had more extensive issues after having a Pap test or breast screening.

SCHD referred patients to Wesley Family Medicine and Associates in Women’s Health for colposcopy and the Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure (LEEP) for FP and EDW clients who had abnormal Pap test results that needed follow up to rule out cervical cancer. Wesley Hospital, Ascension Via Christi Hospitals, and Cypress Women’s Imaging provided our clients with mammograms and other diagnostic tests, such as ultrasound, diagnostic mammogram, and breast biopsy.

There were many successes through these partnerships in 2018, including:

• Wesley Family Medicine and Associates in Women’s Health collectively accepted 89 referrals. Fifteen clients were diagnosed with pre-cervical cancer and one client was diagnosed with cervical cancer.

• Wesley Family Medicine, Ascension Via Christi, and Cypress Women’s Imaging collectively provided 81 mammograms and other diagnostic tests. Four clients were diagnosed with breast cancer.

• AMS Lab evaluated 1,178 Pap tests, with 127 tests showing abnormal results that needed further follow up or short-term monitoring.

• Wichita Family Planning also provides services to our FP clients at a discount.

SCHD partners work with us to schedule SCHD clients as soon as possible to accommodate clients’ schedules, communicate test results in a timely manner, and notify our provider immediately of results suspicious of cancer so that SCHD can schedule clients quickly for treatment. This improves post-cancer treatment rates and lowers mortality and morbidity.
Customer Service

*Project SEARCH* is a public/private collaboration that enables young adults with disabilities to gain and maintain employment through training and career exploration during a one-year rotational internship. Internships are coordinated and led by a *USD 259* instructor, para-educator or job coach. *Project SEARCH* continues to be successful with more than 70 percent of the graduates attaining employment when their internship ends.

During the third quarter of 2018, SCHD partnered with *Project SEARCH* to have three students placed at their Main Clinic location. The students worked collectively to provide valuable support to staff by assuring all client files pulled during “Exclusion Week” were returned to the Medical Records area at the end of each day.

Immunization Program

Each year, Immunization Program Nurses partner with *USD 259 School Nurses* to minimize the number of students who could potentially be excluded from school because they do not have the required vaccinations. The Immunization Program staff reviews records sent by School Nurses of the students identified by *USD 259* as being “out of compliance.” Immunization Nurses compare the information of the student records with the information found in the Kansas Immunization Registry and SCHD records and then notify the School Nurses when corrections are necessary. As a result of this partnership collaboration, over 500 students avoided exclusion from school in 2018.
Visits, Clients Served, Financials and Leadership
Client Visits and Clients Served

**PROGRAM**

Early Detection Works¹
Children’s Dental Clinic – on-site services
Children’s Dental Clinic – off-site screenings²
Family Planning
Healthy Babies
Immunizations and Health Screenings
Maternal Child Health Care Coordination (MCHCC)
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Clinic
Tuberculosis (TB) Control
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)³.

1. Early Detection Works is a program that provides breast and cervical cancer screening to women who qualify.
2. Off-site dental screenings are performed at Sedgwick County schools, health fairs, and the Sedgwick County Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF).
3. Includes all WIC client appointment types.

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Laboratory Services

**PERFORMED**

Laboratory Tests

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Disease Investigations and Animal Control Services

**PROGRAM**

Animal Control – All
Animal Control – Animal bite
Epidemiology
Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Control
Tuberculosis (TB) Control

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Financials

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Leadership

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
- Pete Meitzner, 1st District
- Michael O’Donnell, II, 2nd District
- David Dennis, 3rd District
- Lacey Cruse, 4th District
- Jim Howell, 5th District

**SCHD ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM**
- Adrienne Byrne, Health Director
- Daniel Clifford, Children and Family Health Director
- Preston Goering, Preventive Health Director
- Chris Steward, Health Protection Director

**SEDGWICK COUNTY MANAGEMENT**
- Tom Stolz, County Manager
- Tim Kaufman, Deputy County Manager

Health Department
- 1900 E. 9th St. N, Wichita, KS 67214
- Main Clinic – 2716 W. Central, Wichita, KS 67203
- 316-660-7300 - www.sedgwickcounty.org
Together we can create change.