

# PORTAGE COUNTY COMBINED GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT



## SECOND QUARTER REPORT

**APRIL - JUNE 2024**

## Who We Serve

### Serving the Townships of:

Atwater, Brimfield, Charlestown, Deerfield,  
Edinburg, Franklin, Freedom, Hiram, Mantua,  
Nelson, Palmyra, Paris, Randolph, Ravenna,  
Rootstown, Shalersville, Suffield, Windham

### Serving the Villages of:

Garrettsville, Hiram, Mantua, Mogadore,  
Sugar Bush Knolls, Windham

### Serving the Cities of:

Aurora, Ravenna, Streetsboro



## Mission

To promote public health, prevent disease,  
and protect the environment, utilizing  
leadership and partnership  
to empower individuals and communities to  
achieve optimal health.

## Vision

Healthy People. Healthy Environments.  
Healthy Communities.

## Values

Accountability, Communication, Dedication,  
Ethics, Innovation

## Board of Health Members

Ms. Lucy Ribelin, City of Ravenna, President

Mr. James Bierlair, Vice-President

Ms. Amy Everett, Member

Mr. Charles Delaney, Member

Mrs. Linda Grimm, City of Streetsboro, Member

Mr. Brock Kertoy, Member

Ms. Diana Clarke, Member

Vacant, City of Aurora

## Board of Health Duties:

As established by Ohio law, our eight- member Board of Health functions as a policy, governance, advisory, and regulatory board and provides oversight of major financial and programmatic decisions.

The Board of Health provides oversight for the health of the public, the prevention or restriction of disease, and the abatement of nuisances.

The Board of Health members are appointed by elected officials who serve on the District Advisory Council or by the city they represent.

The Board of Health meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Portage County Health District in the 2nd floor Robert Palmer Conference Room.

# Portage County Combined General Health District Employees

## Administration

Joseph Diorio, MPH, MS, REHS, Health Commissioner  
Becky Lehman, MPH, MPA, CHES, Deputy Health Commissioner  
Dr. Mark Arredondo, MD, Medical Director  
Sarah Meduri, BSPH, SHRM-CP, IPMA- CP, Director of Personnel and Administrative Services  
Christina M. Jewell, Administrative and Account Clerk  
Olivia Card, MA, Epidemiologist

## Finance

Branden Burns, MBA, Director of Finance  
Lisa Miley, Grants Fiscal Manager  
Maria Gill, Account Clerk  
Julia Sykes, AAS, Account Clerk

## Community Health

Amy Cooper, BSND, RD, LD, Director of Community Health  
Joshua Sexton, BSPH, Accreditation Coordinator  
Kimberly Plough, MEd, CHES, Health Educator  
Katherine Holtz, BS, Health Educator  
Kylee McCracken, BS, Health Educator  
Robert Walker, BA, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator  
Rebecca Barreca, MSN, RN, Director of Nursing Programs  
Kirsten Orr, BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse  
Catherine Gellatly, MSN, RN, Public Health Nurse  
Philesia Condor, Clerk  
Danielle Steighner, RD, LDN, WIC Supervisor  
Rachael Stratton, BA, CLC, Breastfeeding Peer Helper & Clinic Assistant  
Briana Robison, MS, MPH, RD, LDN Health Professional 2  
Cynthia Hilbish, RDN, LD, CLC, WIC Supervisor  
Lindy Goist, BSAS, RD, LD, CLC, Health Professional 3  
Amy Hall, BS, RD, LD, Health Professional 2  
Renee Howe, Clinic Assistant  
Chelsea Kyer, Clinic Assistant  
Victoria Caddell, Clinic Assistant  
Julie Seifert, BHE, CLC, Health Professional 1  
Kelly Rambo, BSND, CLC, Health Professional 3  
Abbie Fitch, BSAS, LD, Health Professional 2  
Anita Mackey, Clinic Assistant  
Amanda Casto, Clinic Assistant  
Shelley Toot, CLC, CLS, Peer Helper

## Environmental Health

Justin Rechichar, MPH, MHHS, REHS, Director of Environmental Health  
Amos Sarfo, MS, REHS, Environmental Supervisor  
William Duck, BA, REHS, Environmental Supervisor  
Natalie Menke, BA, REHS, Environmental Supervisor  
Emily Speck, BS, Registered Environmental Health Specialist  
Mike Spies, BS, Registered Environmental Health Specialist  
Leah Luli, MPH, Registered Environmental Health Specialist  
Jim Meyer, BS, AA, Environmental Health Specialist in Training  
Andrea Arroyo, BS, Environmental Health Specialist in Training  
Nicole Lipchik MPH, Environmental Health Specialist in Training  
Cassie Clouser, MSSR, Environmental Health Specialist in Training  
Debbie Wine, Environmental Health Clerk  
Veronica Victoria, Environmental Health Clerk  
Garret Kunz, Seasonal Worker

*Portage County Combined General Health District (PCCGHD) provides comprehensive public health services throughout Portage County (\*excluding Kent City).*

*\*PCCGHD does provide Private Water and Septic System Evaluations by contract in Kent City. PCCGHD also provides WIC Services, Cribs for Kids Program, Child Fatality Review, Children with Medical Handicaps Program and Project DAWN Program to Kent City.*

# ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE



The Administration and Finance Divisions continuously strive to support and ensure the Health District is meeting the 10 Essential Services of Public Health. This is achieved through public health workforce planning, workforce development, financial and strategic planning.



## Monthly Pop-Up Food Pantries

PCHD has successfully partnered with the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank to provide monthly pop-up food pantries, serving an increasing number of families in our community. In April, we served 54 families, in May, 119 families, and in June, 137 families, totaling 310 families over three months.

We have expanded our services to include the distribution of bike helmets, Project Dawn kits, car seats, Pack 'n Plays, WIC registration and card reloads, and health screenings provided by University Hospitals. Additionally, we have welcomed community partners to further support our initiatives at our pop up pantry events.

All leftover food is donated to the Ravenna Center of Hope, ensuring it continues to reach those in need. This partnership and expansion of services have significantly enhanced our ability to support the community's health and well-being.



## POP-UP FOOD PANTRY SCHEDULE

The first Thursday of every month at  
Portage County Health District.



999 East Main Street,  
Ravenna, OH 44266



May 2nd, 1-3pm  
June 6th, 1-3pm  
\*July 3rd, 1-3pm  
August 1st, 1-3pm  
September 5th, 1-3pm  
October 3rd, 1-3pm

\*Pop-Up will be held on Wednesday due to holiday.



## PCHD WORKFORCE

Employees	50
Interns	5
New Hires	4
Staff Departures	2

# COMMUNITY HEALTH

The Community Health Division strives to help bridge the gap between Portage County residents and health care providers, social service agencies, community organizations, etc. in the provision of community health services such as immunizations, injury prevention programming, harm reduction programming, communicable disease investigations, environmental health education, and emergency preparedness.

## INJURY PREVENTION



37

Convertible/Booster  
Seats Distributed



12

Cribs For Kids/  
Pack n' Plays  
Distributed



220

Participants in  
SAIL (Stay Active &  
Independent for Life-  
Falls Prevention)



447

Project DAWN  
(Narcan) Kits  
Distributed



366

People Trained  
in Project DAWN

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE



216

Child & Adult  
Immunizations



244

Communicable  
Disease Investigations

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & SERVICES



254

*monthly average*  
Children with Medical  
Handicaps Clients



54

Animal Bites/Rabies  
Exposures



6

Emergency Preparedness  
Trainings & Events



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Environmental Health Division focuses on prevention of disease through sanitation, safe food and water, proper disposal of waste, and promoting safe and healthy environmental conditions throughout Portage County.

## WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS



340

Food Safety  
Inspections



6

Tattoo/Body Art  
Inspections



27

Solid Waste Inspections &  
Nuisance Complaints



32

Hotel  
Inspections



24

School  
Inspections



142

Swimming Pool &  
Spa Inspections



83

Mosquito Site  
Assessment and  
Trappings



### Home Sewage Treatment Systems

81 Site & Soil Evaluations  
78 Design Plans / Layout Review  
19 Notice of Intent  
71 Inspections



### Chemical & Bacterial Water Sampling

61 Water Samples  
40 Field Inspections  
31 Site Evaluations



### Waste Water Nuisances

59 Inspections/Consults  
37 Data Collection/File Review/Reports



### Plumbing Program

114 Residential Inspections  
10 Commercial Inspections  
6 Clearwater Inspections  
7 Re-inspections



### Stormwater Program

178 ID & Verification Inspections  
66 Dry Weather Screenings  
22 IDDE Insp. & Surface Water Sampling



### Semi-Public Commercial Wastewater

93 Inspections  
22 Consultations



### Point of Sale Program

75 Inspections/Consultation/File Review

# WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC)

The Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) program is an Ohio Department of Health grant funded program that provides nutrition education & supplemental food program for women, infants, and children. The program provides highly nutritious foods, breastfeeding support, nutrition education, and connects families with other area resources.

WIC serves income eligible pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children to age 5.

PCHD administers WIC services in Portage and Columbiana County.



1,958

Participants Served  
in Portage County WIC



20

Community Outreach &  
Education Programs



1,765

Participants Served  
in Columbiana County WIC



5

Nutrition Education  
Programs

## BREASTFEEDING BENEFITS:

### Breastfeeding Mothers

Reduces their risk for:

- Ovarian cancer
- Breast cancer
- Type 2 diabetes

### Breastfed Infants

Have a reduced risk of:

- SIDS
- Lower respiratory infections
- Type 2 diabetes
- Asthma
- Obesity

### Workforce & Environmental

- Infants have less illness so mothers miss less work
- Less trash & plastic waste compared to formula & bottle supplies



2,523

Breastfeeding  
Education & Support



77.4%

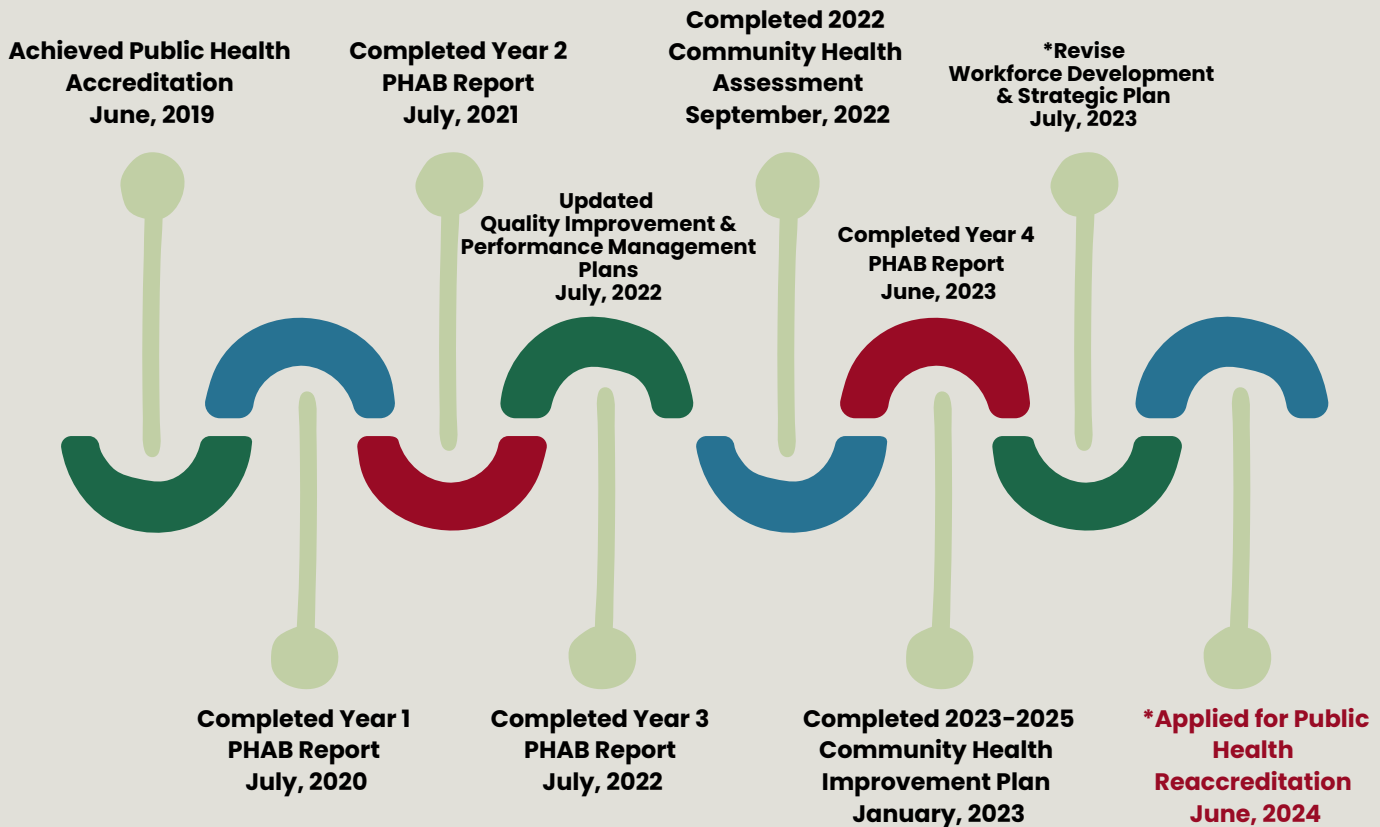
Breastfeeding  
Initiation Rate

*WIC supports all mothers and babies, regardless of their feeding decision. Staff are trained to promote and protect breastfeeding as the optimal feeding method for all infants. WIC staff provide the necessary resources and referrals to assist mother and baby in achieving their breastfeeding goals.*

# PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION

Public health accreditation measures a health district's performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidence-based standards. It focuses on the continual development, revision, and distribution of public health standards.

## Accreditation Timeline:



## COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN PRIORITIES



Chronic Disease



Family, Pregnancy, Infant, & Child Health



Mental Health, Substance Use, & Addiction

**Awarded National Accreditation  
for Public Health Excellence!**



HEALTH DISTRICT

