

2023 – A Moving Year

Hamilton County Public Health clinical services – the area of our agency charged with treating tuberculosis, providing sexual health services and hands-on work with other public health issues – does not have the luxury of taking a break, as our services are mandated and ultimately, critical. When we learned earlier this year that the lease for our clinic would not be renewed as our space is being turned into student housing, we went into search mode to find new space before the new year.

We ultimately settled at 5050 Section Ave. in Norwood. After build-out at breakneck speed, I am pleased to report that we are fully operational with a state-of-the-art facility. We have completely upgraded our equipment and patient areas and are offering the best in public health clinical care. With great thanks to our Board of Health and the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, we are well-situated to offer public health services for many years to come.

COVID-19 Recovery

Coming out of nearly two years of pandemic response, it was important to the communities we serve to develop strategies to return to normal. The Hamilton County Public Health WeTHRIVE! initiative provided some \$600,000 in grants to our jurisdictions. We were the only local health department in Ohio to leverage state grants to improve community mental health, social connections and combating social isolation, and community engagement.

We were most pleased to see communities come together to re-establish community events and opportunities to interact that had been missing during the pandemic. We saw community movie nights, festivals and other gatherings to bring people together. Other schools and communities used the funding to advance physical activity, such as safe walking paths, pickleball courts and other fitness activities.

Congratulations to all who received the grants and the creativity used to implement the funds for community good.

COVID-19 is now a virus we will live with for the foreseeable future, and the public health response has shifted accordingly from vaccination clinics to a deeper focus on community recovery and resiliency. While we are no longer running clinics, COVID vaccine is still available at pharmacies and provider offices. Similar to flu and other respiratory viruses, people should work with their primary care provider for diagnosis and treatment if experiencing symptoms.



Accreditation

Five years ago, Hamilton County Public Health became the first health department in Southwest Ohio to achieve national accreditation. The accreditation process raises the bar so that the nearly 3,000 governmental public health departments in the U.S. can continuously improve the quality of services and performance. To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a multi-faceted, peer reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.

The national Public Health Accreditation Board requires us to revisit the accreditation process every five years and this was our year to do so. The accreditation process requires us to continually examine our services to look for areas to align with the communities we serve. I am pleased to report that we were once again recognized with national accreditation – a testament to our team and the services we provide for Hamilton County.

Recovery Friendly Hamilton County

With some 23 million Americans recovering from substance use disorder, there are bound to be some in the workforce. In fact, it is estimated that more than 60 percent of Americans aged 18 and older with a substance use disorder are part of the workforce (SAMHSA, 2022). At the close of 2023, there were 50 organizations participating in Recovery Friendly Hamilton County (RFHC), an initiative of Hamilton County Public Health designed to give those in recovery a chance to succeed.

Recovery Friendly workplaces support their communities by recognizing recovery from substance use disorder as a strength and by being willing to work intentionally with people in recovery. Recovery Friendly Workplaces encourage a healthy and safe environment where employers, employees, and communities can collaborate to create positive change and eliminate barriers for those impacted by substance use disorder.

If you are part of a company or organization and would like to learn more about this initiative, please visit: www.hcph.org and search the Harm Reduction section.

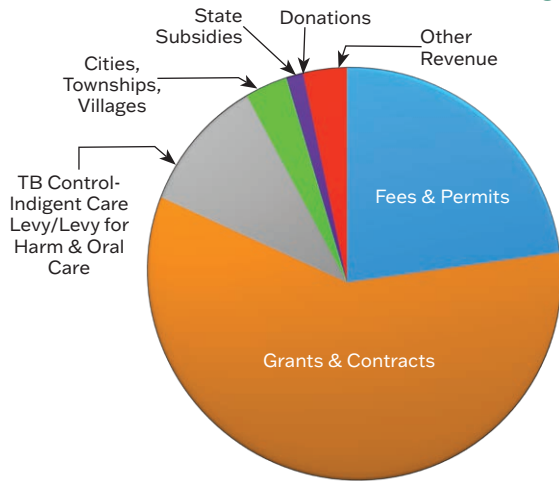
hcph.org

One of the most important portals for doing business with us is our website. Here, our constituents can access all our services from vital statistics to plumbing to inspection results. In addition, there is a wealth of health and wellness information. Based on feedback from our users, we undertook a re-design of our site to continue to offer the most effective means to interact with us.

The new site is efficiently organized and according to our users, it is easy to search for and access information. You can view the results of all the inspections we perform including foodservice, sewage treatment systems, plumbing, pools, hotels and more. This is a great source of background information you can use prior to going out to eat, servicing your sewage treatment systems, using public swimming pools or several other areas. Stop by and let us know what you think.

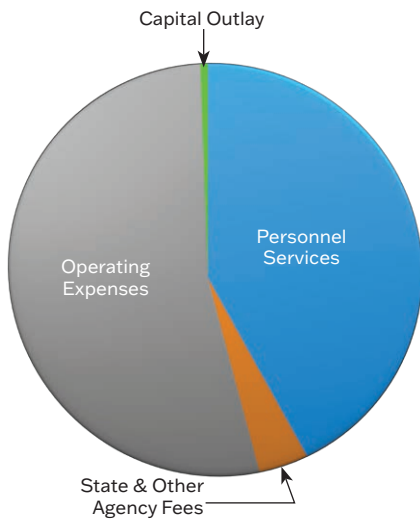
Greg Kesterman
Health Commissioner

Revenues & Expenditures - 2023



REVENUES

Fees & Permits	\$5,857,445
Grants & Contracts	\$15,423,666
TB Control-Indigent Care Levy/Levy for Harm & Oral Care	\$2,738,720
Cities, Townships, Villages	\$ 860,051
State Subsidies	\$ 335,348
Donations	-
Other Revenue	\$ 861,035
Total Revenues	\$26,076,265



EXPENDITURES

Personnel Services	\$11,749,482
State & Other Agency Fees	\$1,116,406
Operating Expenses	\$15,037,228
Capital Outlay	\$159,861
Total Expenditures	\$28,062,978

2023 Program Highlights

Community Health

Birth Records Issued	8,841
Death Records Issued	28,444
Emergency Medicine Points of Dispensing Sites	104
Harm Reduction	
Total Client Visits to Syringe Exchange	15,752
Syringes Distributed	1,093,225
Current Exchange Locations	8
WeTHRIVE! Communities/School Districts	24/8

Environmental Health

Backflow Devices Registered	341
Food Service Inspections	10,010
Food Safety Training - Individuals Trained	580
Lead Investigations Completed	26
Plumbing Permits Issued	4,223
Rabies Quarantine Notices Sent	706
School Inspections	384
Sewage Treatment System (STS) Inspections/Re-inspections	15,949
Swimming Pool/Spa Inspections	1,643
Tattoo/Piercing Facility Inspections	84
Waste Facility Inspections	158

Hamilton County Public Health Mission

Hamilton County Public Health educates, serves and protects our community for a healthier future.

Hamilton County Public Health Vision

Healthy choices. Healthy lives. Healthy communities.

District Advisory Council

Members include presidents of township boards of trustees, village mayors and the President of the Board of County Commissioners. Members are required by law to meet annually in March. They select the members of the Board of Health, make recommendations to the Board of Health and authorize city contractual agreements.

ChairpersonRose Stertz
SecretaryJodie Leis

Board of Health

The Board of Health is the governing body of Hamilton County Public Health. It has the authority to adopt rules and regulations which have the same status as law, enact policies within the jurisdiction of HCPH and hire a health commissioner. Meetings are held at the HCPH office on the second Monday of each month at 4 p.m.

PresidentElizabeth Kelly, M.D.
Vice PresidentDan Meloy
Board Members.Jim Brett
.Tracey A. Puthoff, Esq.
.Mark Rippe

Health Commissioner and Staff

Health CommissionerGreg Kesterman
Assistant Health Commissioner.Jackie Lindner, Department of Community Health Services
Assistant Health Commissioner.Craig Davidson, Department of Environmental Health Services

Divisions

Disease Prevention, Community Services . .Martha Walter, Director
Emergency PreparednessChrista Hyson, Director
Environmental HealthJeremy Hessel, Director
Epidemiology and AssessmentAnne Arble, Director
Health Promotion and EducationMary Ellen Knaebel, Director
Nursing & Clinical ServicesEva Whitehead, Director
PlumbingSean Moore, Director
Waste ManagementChuck DeJonckheere, Director
Water QualityFelicia Erwin, Director

Frequently Requested Information

Customer Service and Important Phone Numbers

Main Number.(513) 946-7800
Administration/Health Commissioner’s Office(513) 946-7822
Main Fax(513) 946-7890

Web and Social Media

Hamilton County Public Health Online www.HCPH.org
Follow us on Twitter @HamCoHealth
Join us on Facebook www.fb.com/HamCoHealth
YouTube. www.youtube.com/HamCoHealth
WeTHRIVE!SM www.WatchUsThrive.org