



FACES OF HEALTH

2007

A YEAR IN REVIEW

A MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATIVE HEALTH OFFICER CATHY RAEVSKY



To the Citizens and Board of Commissioners of Kent County:

On behalf of the Kent County Health Department, I am pleased to present *Faces of Health 2007: A Year in Review*. Last year presented a number of notable challenges for the Department. Budget woes forced us to restructure the way we deliver certain services. News of a local doctor putting patients at increased risk of infection with obsolete sterilizations practices created a public health concern.

Through it all, the work of public health persisted, and the 2007 data support that. Last year, the Health Department performed 3,700 food service inspections, administered 35,358 vaccinations, and completed 44,874 vision screenings on school-aged children. While these accomplishments barely scratch the surface of our many offerings, the numbers may give you an idea of just how many of the nearly 600,000 County residents we serve.

Behind the statistics are faces of a community made stronger and healthier by its local public health department. This report aims to introduce you to just a few of the people impacted by the work of the Kent County Health Department in 2007. It is my hope that through these snapshots, you will gain an understanding of our services and a greater appreciation for the vast responsibilities encompassed by public health.

The accomplishments of last year are a testament to the resilience and dedication of Health Department employees, our strong ties with community partners, and the backing of the Kent County Board of Commissioners. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Raevsky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Administrative Health Officer
Kent County Health Department

THE KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SHALL BE RESPONSIVE TO THE COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS OF THE CITIZENS OF KENT COUNTY BY CONTINUALLY AND DILIGENTLY ENDEAVORING TO PREVENT DISEASE, PROLONG LIFE, AND PROMOTE THE PUBLIC HEALTH.



HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Caring today for a healthy tomorrow



Kent County Health Department
700 Fuller Avenue, NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 632-7100

The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County residents since 1931. It is made up of four divisions: Administration, Community Clinical Services, Community Nursing and Environmental Health. The Health Department is home to 300 employees, including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, and public health administrators. KCHD operates four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and the Westside of Grand Rapids. The Health Department also is home to the Kent County Animal Shelter.

To learn more about our services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

2007 REVENUES & EXPENSES

TOTAL REVENUES: \$27,277,832

CHARGES FOR SERVICES \$1,032,312

COUNTY GENERAL FUND \$9,724,962

REIMBURSEMENTS \$4,211,187

OTHER REVENUE \$349,057

FINES & FORFEITURES \$161,400

STATE GRANTS \$10,595,371

LICENSES & PERMITS \$1,203,543

CAPITAL OUTLAY \$263,381

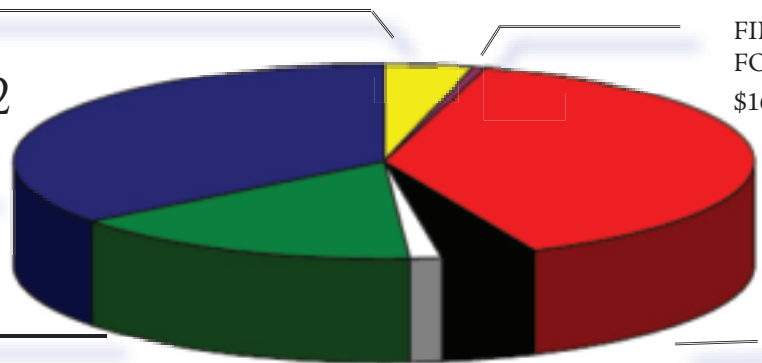
COMMODITIES \$5,239,435

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES \$2,573,204

OTHER \$1,106,511

PERSONNEL \$18,095,301

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$27,277,832



Administration is responsible for general oversight of the Health Department. Programs housed in this division include Communicable Disease/Epidemiology, Emergency Preparedness, Finance, Healthy Kent 2010, Management Information Systems, Health Care for People of Color, Health Education and Promotion, the Obesity Initiative, and the Medical Examiner. In 2007, Administration...

...Kicked off Kent Steps Up!, a fitness initiative that armed more than **1,700** third- and fourth-graders with pedometers, and encouraged the students to take at least **10,000** steps each day.

...Provided fresh fruits and vegetables to an area of Grand Rapids where they are either non-existent or too expensive to purchase, through the South East Area Farmers' Market.

...Reported and monitored trends for **77** communicable diseases, including **49,103** cases of flu-like illnesses.

...Performed **1,425** blood pressure and cholesterol screenings on site, in the workplace, and at community events.

...Reached **11,406** youth through **1,628** Health Education sessions on topics ranging from drug, alcohol, and tobacco use to sexual assault to dog bite prevention.

...Issued a public health alert and coordinated notification of **13,000** former patients of a Kent County doctor, and offered follow-up care as needed.

Faces of Health: Jim

When a health assessment revealed that Jim Whittaker had the body of a 78-year old a few years ago, he didn't take the news lightly.

The two-time cancer survivor took responsibility for getting his health on track through education and lifestyle changes.

A motivating factor was the six-week Personal Actions Toward Health (PATH) program offered by the Health Department. For Jim, the course reinforced messages about diet and exercise, and taught him to navigate the healthcare system.

"PATH was a clearinghouse of health information and it provided the motivation I needed to keep going," says Jim. "Through the class, the message became crystallized: I'm responsible for my health."

Jim, 72, now boasts the body of a 68-year old.



COMMUNITY CLINICAL SERVICES

Through its main clinic at 700 Fuller Avenue, NE in Grand Rapids and four satellite clinics throughout the County, Community Clinical Services prevents disease and promotes the health of residents through childhood immunization services, implementation of the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program, and through personal health services, which include prevention, testing, and education related to sexually-transmitted infections, tuberculosis, and HIV. In 2007, programs in Community Clinical Services....

...Managed **22** active cases of tuberculosis and assessed **815** clients for tuberculosis.

...Served **33,482** clients through the Women, Infants, and Children Program, providing nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion, health care referrals, and supplementary food while contributing **\$12,288,601** to the local economy.

...Provided **\$13,680** to local farmers through the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, also known as Project FRESH, which provides eligible WIC participants with coupons to purchase locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets throughout Kent County.

...Hosted **7,603** client visits for sexually-transmitted infection and HIV testing.

...Ordered vaccines, served as a vaccine depot, and monitored quality assurance for **103** sites providing federally-subsidized vaccines for children.

...Oversaw immunization reporting requirements for **303** schools and **258** child care programs.

Faces of Health: Candace

Being a single mother isn't easy, especially when money is tight. Just ask Candace Chivis. Two months before the birth of her son in 2005, Candace turned to the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, provided by the Kent County Health Department, for the help she needed.

WIC provides Candace and her baby with food staples like milk, cheese, eggs, and beans. WIC also provides medical and social referrals and professional guidance from public health dietitians and nurses on nutrition, breastfeeding, and immunizations.

Candace, a regular at the Fulton Street Farmer's Market, receives vouchers for produce from the market through Project FRESH. When she realized that store-bought baby food contains a lot of cornstarch, she used the lentils, peas, carrots, and sweet potatoes purchased with Project FRESH dollars received through WIC to begin making her own baby food.

"As a result, I have a two-year-old who's a good eater," says Candace. "WIC is a very, very positive program."



The diversity of responsibilities that fall under Community Nursing cannot be emphasized enough. Health services for refugees, case management for lead-poisoned children, home visits to moms-to-be, grief counseling for parents who have lost a child, and hearing and vision screening at Kent County schools are just a few of the activities to emerge from this division. While sheer numbers cannot tell the story, some figures will help put it in perspective. In 2007, Community Nursing...

...Visited **21,543** parents and parents-to-be through various programs designed to improve the health and well-being of parents and children.

...Made **222** home or office visits to **101** families grieving the loss of a child.

...Screened **335** refugees, mostly from Burma and Burundi.

...Enrolled **429** children in a program that offers financial coverage and support for families of children diagnosed with chronic health conditions, to age **18**.

...Managed **167** cases of childhood lead poisoning, reflecting a **70** percent decrease in cases since 2000. At the same time, outreach and testing increased.

Faces of Health: Wanda

When Wanda Banks found out that she was pregnant last year, she was apprehensive to say the least.

“I didn’t know how I was going to do it,” says Wanda, 16.

But by the time her son, De’Angelo, was born last fall, she was prepared, thanks in part to home visits from a Kent County Health Department nurse. Wanda’s nurse equipped her with information to prepare her for the birth and beyond. After hearing about the many benefits, Wanda made the choice to breastfeed her son.

Wanda says the guidance she received from the Health Department nurse is one big reason that De’Angelo is a healthy baby.

“She’s been a lot of help,” said Wanda. “It’s good to have somebody on your side!”



If you live in Kent County and own a dog, eat at a restaurant on occasion, or swim in a public pool, you've been effected in some way by Environmental Health. This division oversees the Animal Shelter, performs food safety inspections and general inspection for other facilities, like public pools to child and adult care facilities. It also houses a state-of-the-art laboratory that performs HIV confirmation testing for almost the entire state of Michigan. In 2007, the Environmental Health division...

...Reported a **29** percent decline in the number of dog bites, thanks to increased enforcement and education efforts over the past several years.

...Completed **3,700** inspections at **1,985** licensed food service establishments throughout Kent County. These included bars, restaurants, school cafeterias, and more.

...Inspected **440** licensed public pools, **352** nonresidential water supplies, and **268** child and adult care facilities.

...Conducted laboratory tests on **34,824** water samples to detect chemical and bacteriological contamination.

...Returned **766** animals to their owner, investigated **5,547** animal-related complaints, and issued **30,074** dog licenses.

Faces of Health: Chef O

Chef Oliver Hale knows his way around a kitchen. A 40-year veteran of the trade, “Chef O” hosts a televised cooking show and was voted among the top three chefs in 2007 by *Grand Rapids Magazine* readers. He has worked in dining establishments from Texas to Toledo.

In the restaurant world, he says, it’s typical for staff to get nervous when Health Department sanitarians stop by unannounced, for inspections. But over the years, he says, Kent County Health Department sanitarians have worked well with the area establishments he has overseen. In some instances, he adds, they improve efficiencies in the kitchen with practical suggestions.

“They come in and do what they have to do and always explain their process,” says Chef O, a self-described stickler for a clean kitchen.

Over the last 15 years, Chef O has worked at Noto’s, Sundance Grill, and the Hilton. Today, you’ll find him making dishes from scratch at the Real Food Café in Alger Heights.



A LOOK BACK

2007 brought many challenges and successes for the Kent County Health Department. The Animal Shelter witnessed a decline in the number of dog bites. Lead-poisoned children decreased while blood-lead testing increased. The department passed its accreditation review and received a grant to partake in a multi-state learning collaborative. Through that grant, KCHD staff was able to improve education for hepatitis C clients and care providers. The list goes on.

The dominant story to emerge from the Health Department in 2007 was that of Dr. Robert W. Stokes. In April 2007, the area dermatologist was tried in U.S. District Court on charges of health care fraud. During the investigation, federal agents discovered that he may have used medical instruments, designed and intended to be used on a single patient, on multiple patients. The Kent County Health Department concluded that Dr. Stokes' medical practices put his patients at increased risk of coming into contact with viruses that can be transmitted through blood or body fluids, including hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV.



The ensuing months entailed a department-wide effort to reach out to former patients of Dr. Stokes. Staff worked diligently to identify and notify these patients, coordinate a phone bank for questions and concerns, and offer testing at special clinics. However unsettling and regrettable this incident, the handling of it was a testament to the dedication of Health Department staff and their ability to work as a team under pressure.

With lessons learned and successes celebrated, the Health Department continues its steadfast efforts to protect Kent County citizens every day, all year long.

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Through the Obesity Initiative, 2008 will see the beginning of a voluntary, member-based program that identifies Kent County restaurants that offer healthy choices to their clientele.

This year, the Kent County Health Department is looking forward to the completion of a new Animal Shelter, which will replace the current facility. The shelter will be double in size to the current facility. The design incorporates a superior air-handling system and many other modern amenities that will allow the shelter to hold adoptable animals longer and keep them healthier during their stay. Groundbreaking took place in the spring for the \$4.72 million project, and the building should be complete and ready for occupation in November 2008.



Thanks to a grant from the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention, the Kent County Health Department will participate in the Children's Environmental Health Initiative, a community partnership focused on keeping homes safe for children.

In a community-wide effort, the Health Department's Healthy Kent 2010 program will implement a Suicide Prevention Plan, to raise awareness and educate people about warning signs in people at higher risk for suicide.

This year, the Health Department's Epidemiology Unit will oversee a county-wide survey of 1,200 residents to assess behavioral risk factors of Kent County residents.



Health Department staff look forward to seeing the progression of the Sheldon Complex, a new health and human services facility located at 121 Franklin Ave., SE in Grand Rapids. The building is slated for completion in June 2009, and will house the Kent County Health Department's Sheldon Clinic, one of five satellite clinics operated by the department throughout Kent County.

Main Health Department

General Information... (616) 632-7100
Toll-Free... (888) 515-1300
Administration... (616) 632-7280
Animal Shelter... (616) 336-3210
Community Clinical Services... (616) 632-7203
Community Nursing... (616) 632-7058
Environmental Health... (616) 632-6900
Medical Examiner's Office... (616) 632-7247
Communicable Disease/Epidemiology Unit... (616) 632-7228
Personal Health Services... (616) 632-7171
Public Health Laboratory... (616) 632-7210
Central Supply (VFC Vaccines)... (616) 632-7073
Central Supply (Pamphlet and Video Library)... (616) 632-7074
Community Relations... (616) 632-7110

Programs and Services

AIDS/HIV Testing... (616) 632-7171
Children's Special Health Care Services... (616) 632-7066
Health Education and Promotion... (616) 632-7290
Health Improvement Program... (616) 632-7290
Immunizations... (616) 632-7020
International Travel Immunization Clinic... (616) 632-6990
Maternal and Infant Health Program... (616) 632-7058
Public Health Laboratory... (616) 632-7210
Public Sanitation/Nuisance/Complaints... (616) 632-6900
Restaurant Licensing/Complaints... (616) 632-6900
Sexually Transmitted Infection Clinic... (616) 632-7171
Tuberculosis Clinic... (616) 632-7190
Vision and Hearing Screening... (616) 632-7047
Well/Septic Permits... (616) 632-6900
Well Water Testing... (616) 632-6900 or (616) 632-7210
WIC... (616) 632-7200
Women's Health Network... (616) 632-7283

FACES OF KCHD



LOCATIONS

FULLER CLINIC &
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
700 FULLER AVENUE NE
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503
(616) 632-7100

KENTWOOD CLINIC
1620 – 44TH STREET SE
KENTWOOD, MI 49508
(616) 336-8577

NORTH COUNTY CLINIC
4388 – 14 MILE ROAD
ROCKFORD, MI 49341
(616) 866-0632

WESTSIDE CLINIC
653 STOCKING NW
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49504
(616) 336-3957

WYOMING CLINIC
852 – 47TH STREET SW
WYOMING, MI 49509
(616) 531-8120



Kentwood Clinic, 44th Street

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATORS

ADMINISTRATIVE HEALTH OFFICER: CATHY RAEVSKY

MEDICAL DIRECTOR: MARK HALL, M.D., M.P.H.

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEALTH OFFICER: BILL ANSTEY

FINANCE DIRECTOR: GAIL BRINK, C.P.A.

COMMUNITY CLINICAL SERVICES DIVISION DIRECTOR: ROBERTA PEACOCK, R.N., B.S.N.

COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICES DIVISION DIRECTOR: SANDRA WALLS, R.N., M.S.N.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION DIRECTOR: DAVID KRAKER, R.S.

2007 KENT COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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