



2018

ANNUAL REPORT

HARFORD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Harford County
Health Department**

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Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Harford County
Health Department**



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEALTH OFFICER

The Annual Report from fiscal year 2018 (FY'18) provides an overview of the challenges met and opportunities presented within the Harford County Health Department over the course of the past year. We strive to make Harford County the healthiest community in our state and are pleased to share our progress as a county with you all. Harford County experienced an increase in immunization services, HIV case management, dental health visits, behavioral health visits, and Medicaid applications in FY'18. We also devoted special attention to Patagonia EMR/Collections, the opioid OCCC, and home visiting projects throughout FY'2018.

Harford County continues to experience challenges in chronic disease, substance use, and health inequity. Due to a rise in opioid overdoses and cases of substance exposed newborns in the county, our Bureaus of Behavioral Health and Family Health are evolving to address these challenges and their work continues to be vital to the health of the community. Our Care Coordination Plus Program was designed to improve health outcomes and reduce health costs through community -based, comprehensive care coordination of high-risk, high-cost populations and has experienced success in reducing health service expenditures.

The focus of FY'18 was "positioning and reorganizing ourselves for the future." In 2018, we identified three priority areas for our Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC) moving forward, which are: Chronic Disease Prevention & Wellness, Behavioral Health, and Family Health & Resiliency. In addition to identifying new LHIC priorities, we have continued our commitment to improving community health, emergency preparedness, environmental health, social work services, and public health education and outreach within Harford County.

We continue to work toward improving the health of our residents and recognize the importance of working alongside our community partners in order to address the challenges that remain in Harford County.

Russell Moy, MD, MPH
Health Officer
Harford County Health Department





ABOUT HARFORD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Harford County Health Department strives to ensure the health, wellness, and safety of Harford County residents. The Department employs more than 170 professionals to deliver a variety of services at centers in Bel Air, Aberdeen, Havre de Grace, and Edgewood.

Mission

To protect, promote, and improve the health, safety, and environment of Harford County residents.

Vision

To make Harford County the healthiest community in Maryland.

Strategies

1. Assuring financial sustainability by increasing services and resources
2. Improving access to care by reducing barriers to care
3. Promoting workforce development
4. Strengthening data-driven communications

Board of Health

Richard C. Slutzky, President

Mike Perrone, Jr.

Joseph M. Woods

James V. McMahan, Jr.

Chad R. Shrodes

Patrick S. Vincenti

Curtis L. Beulah

A GLANCE AT 2018: LHIC PRIORITIES

Priorities Identified

The Annual Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC) meeting held in October 2017 resulted in the identification of three LHIC priority areas moving forward for the next year.



Behavioral Health

Behavioral Health encompasses mental health & substance abuse treatment.



Family Health & Resiliency

Family Health ensures family stability, with special attention devoted to substance exposed newborns (SENs).



Chronic Disease Prevention & Wellness

Chronic Disease Prevention focuses on preventing diseases like cancer & diabetes. It also addresses lifestyle and risk factors.

A GLANCE AT 2018: SERVICES SNAPSHOT

ADMINISTRATION

9,370

Birth Certificates
Issued

1,923

Death Certificates
Issued

75,787

Medicaid Transport Rides
Provided

CARE COORDINATION

1,622

Clients Navigated through Health
Choice System

440

Healthy Families
Home Visits

120

Substance Exposed Newborn
Referrals

ENVIRONMENTAL

1,712

Food Service
Inspections

874

Rabies Exposure
Investigations

247

Beach & Pool
Inspections

SOCIAL WORK

87

Monthly Teen Diversion
Contacts

1,479

School Clinic
Visits

1,143

School Readiness
Counseling Visits

PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

20

Opioid Education
Events

10,672

K-12 Students
Educated on Tobacco

76

Cancer Screening
Outreach Activities

CLINICAL

12,732

Visits for Behavioral
Health Services

4,891

Dental Care
Visits

6,380

Vaccinations Given to
Children

5,236

WIC
Participants

SPOTLIGHT: EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Strategic Planning

The Health Policy Unit conducted a special strategic planning session in May of 2018 in order to create the 2018-2023 Strategic Planning Framework. The HCHD Mission, Vision, and Values were revised and updated to align with the culture and goals of the Health Department. The priorities identified by HCHD staff included:

- Financial stability and sustainability
- Access to care
- Workforce development
- Quality improvement/performance management
- Information technology advances
- Data analysis and epidemiological capacity

LGBTQ+ Training

Zack Kosinski and Lynda Boegner hosted an LGBTQ+ Training with staff in April 2018. The training was offered in order to equip staff with skills to effectively serve members of the LGBTQ+ community, as well as to work alongside members of the LGBTQ+ community in a professional setting. Employees communicated that they wanted to improve their cultural competency with members of the community during an LGBT Health Readiness Assessment, and staff that attended this session reported satisfaction with the training they received in this area.



WRAPAROUND SERVICES

The Health Department offers assistance to individuals and families, regardless of age, race, or income throughout the county. These wraparound services assist community members in achieving optimal health and overall well-being. Programs offered include:

- Administrative Care Coordination
- Care Coordination Plus
- Maryland Children's Health Program
- Medical Assistance (MA) Transportation
- Nurse Monitoring Program
- Hospital Outreach Program
- Adult Evaluation & Review Services

Highlight: MA Transportation Helps Patients Reach Providers

The Bureau of Administration supports all HCHD programs and oversees various services for Harford County residents, all while striving to provide excellent customer service. One avenue of serving the community is through the non-emergency Medicaid transportation (NEMT) program. NEMT assures transportation for Medicaid participants who have no other means of transportation to and from medical appointments. Modes of service transportation available include ambulatory (cab/passenger van), wheelchair van, and ambulance. In fiscal year 2018, NEMT provided 74,298 transports to over 2,400 Harford County Medicaid participants.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Bureau of Behavioral Health is committed to empowering Harford County residents throughout healthy recovery. The bureau is continuously evolving to meet the mental health and substance abuse challenges that arise within the community. Services available include:

- Addiction Resources
- Drug Overdose Fatality Review Team
- Mental Health Therapy
- Naloxone Training
- Opiate Recovery Court
- Peer Recovery & Support Services
- Prevention, Treatment, & Recovery Services

Highlight: Expanding Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services

The Bureau of Behavioral Health has transitioned to new leadership and a new electronic health record. These changes allowed the bureau to maximize billing and efficiency, as well as expanded the breadth of services to a greater pool of clients. As the safety net provider of substance abuse and mental health care for low-income individuals, the clinic provided approximately 10,000 outpatient encounters last year. Over the past six months, services were expanded in the local Detention Center by offering inmates increased assessments, treatment groups, and access to re-entry services upon release. The hospital outreach program has continued through ongoing support of peer specialists who serve emergency department walk-ins and the Behavioral Health Unit. In conjunction with several other programs in the Health Department, they have developed a peer-led program focusing on connecting pregnant women and their children to treatment and other resources to aid in their journey of recovery and resiliency.



CLINICAL SERVICES

The Health Department provides a variety of clinical services at our Aberdeen, Bel Air, and Edgewood sites. These services are provided to clients with private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and to those who are uninsured. Services offered include:

- Dental Clinic
- Family Planning
- Immunizations
- Sexually Transmitted Infection Testing
- Emergency Contraception
- HIV Case Management
- Infectious/Communicable Disease Services



Highlight: Dental Clinic Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary

The HCHD Dental Clinic celebrated the anniversary of its tenth year in operation in April of 2018. Since its inception, the Dental Clinic has treated nearly 9,000 children. The clinic was originally founded in order to provide dental care to children between the ages of 1 and 20 and pregnant women with MA. The clinic has expanded to provide school-based dental services for students pre-k through third grade in the county. In addition to this expansion, the clinic now provides a Ryan White Clinic twice per month for patients who are living with HIV/AIDS.

Highlight: Immunizations for School Age Children

One of the goals of the Immunization Program is to ensure that all school-age children are up-to-date on the vaccinations required for school. The program works closely with school nurses in an effort to decrease the number of children unable to attend school due to noncompliance with required vaccines. In the fall of 2017, they held 14 free clinics and administered 827 vaccines to the elementary, middle and high school students. They not only provided the required immunizations, but also offered recommended vaccines such as the HPV vaccine and the Hepatitis A vaccine.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Community Health Services is comprised of programs that protect and promote the community's health, including Health Education, Healthcare for the Homeless, Injury Prevention, and Tobacco Treatment, Education, and Enforcement.

Highlight: Rapid Hepatitis C Testing in Harford County

The onset of rapid Hepatitis C (HCV) testing began in January of 2018 at Health Services. From January through June of this year, 50 individuals were tested for HCV by the Health Services Counseling and Testing division. This free, rapid 20-minute finger stick test indicates the presence of Hepatitis C infection. Staff assists clients who test positive to identify sources of care. They also provide assistance with insurance and addressing potential barriers to care.

Highlight: Tobacco Education & Cessation

The Public Health Education Unit, a component of Maryland's Cigarette Restitution Fund Tobacco Program, provides community and school-based health education initiatives as well as cessation services for all tobacco products. In FY'18, the program educated over 18,000 youth and adults, referred hundreds to the State's MD Quitline, and attracted 130 participants to its cessation programs. The program also aims to reduce youth access to tobacco by partnering with law enforcement to conduct 120 tobacco licensee compliance checks and conducting multiple educational visits annually to each of Harford's nearly 200 tobacco vendors to provide information about compliance with state and federal youth access laws and the importance of checking ID. In collaboration with the Harford County Public Schools, more than 150 youth tobacco policy offenders participated in 20 specialized after-school programs while another 200 parents received personalized education about risks of using tobacco and vaping/electronic smoking devices (ESDs).



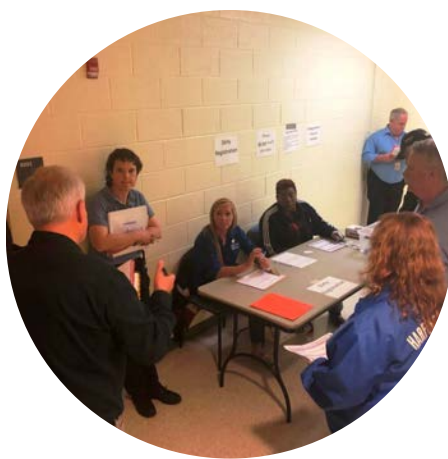
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Emergency Preparedness division is actively engaged in coordinating public health-related planning and response activities related to disasters.



Highlight: Peach Bottom Radiologic Drill

The biennial Peach Bottom exercise demonstrates the critical role the Harford County Health Department would play in a radiological disaster. During the May 2018 Board of Health meeting, Dr. Russell Moy stressed the importance of having potassium iodide (KI) on hand for households within 10 miles of the Beach Bottom Atomic Power Station in the event of a radiation release from the power station. The ingestion of KI is one of many personal protective actions that can be taken if such a release were to occur. The Harford County Health Department is a member of the Maryland Responds Volunteer Management Program Radiation Workgroup that is developing training for a state Radiation Response Team who can be called upon to assist local jurisdictions during a radiological event. This initiative has the potential to strengthen the state's ability to respond to any type of radiological event.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Bureau of Environmental Health is responsible for both resource protection and consumer protection in the county. The services provided by each program include:

Resource Protection

- Air Quality & Solid Waste
- Building Permits & Review
- Perc Testing
- Septic Systems
- Water & Wells

Consumer Protection

- Food Control
- Food Facility Inspections
- Rabies & Vector Control
- Facility Inspections
- Community Hygiene

Highlight: Animal Attack Investigations & Rabies Clinics

The Bureau of Environmental Health investigated over 700 Animal Attack Reports in fiscal year 2018. Through these investigations, the public was educated on the importance and requirement that household pets (dogs, cats, and ferrets) must be vaccinated against rabies. Each year the number of animal attack reports investigated by the Health Department increases, due in part to Harford County's growing population, improved reporting by medical personnel, and collaboration with other county agencies including Animal Control and the Humane Society of Harford County. Also during this time, the Health Department vaccinated over 1,300 animals through eight separate Rabies Vaccination Clinics. Vaccinations are provided at a reduced cost to ensure all residents have the opportunity to immunize their pets. These clinics continue to educate the community about public health and pet health.



FAMILY HEALTH

Family Health Services help to ensure the health of Harford County Families. Services available include:

- Healthy Families America
- Hearing & Vision Screenings
- Home Birth Verification
- Lead Poisoning Follow-Up
- Resources for Substance Exposed Newborns
- School Health Readiness (SHR)
- Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) Program



Highlight: Healthy Families America Graduation

Healthy Families Harford County, an evidence-based home visiting program, is based on the belief that “early, nurturing relationships are the foundation for lifelong healthy development.” The program, which is accredited by Healthy Families of America (HFA), began serving families in the Aberdeen area, and in fiscal year 2018 expanded to serve all of Harford County. Support services are provided to women and their families during the women's pregnancies and until the children reach three years of age. After years of hard work by trained service providers, Healthy Families Harford County hosted its first graduation in June 2018 for families that enrolled in the program in its early stages. Fiscal year 2018 has not only brought growth in the expansion of services but also an increase in the number of families enrolled in the program.

Highlight: WIC Expands Electronic Benefits

The Harford County WIC Program continues to advance in the 21st century by providing electronic benefits, a helpful eWIC app, and online nutrition education. Harford County WIC has over 2,000 registered App users. The Maryland eWIC App allows participants to check their current balance of eligible foods, view their next appointment, search for nearby WIC locations and authorized stores, scan items by their UPC to see if they are WIC eligible foods, and provide a resource connection to helpful services within the community and state.

FAMILY HEALTH CONTINUED

Highlight: School Health Readiness Serves Youth

The School Health Readiness program provides a Certified Nurse Practitioner and a mental health provider in four Title I elementary schools and in the Alternative Education Program. The nurses are able to provide well-child visits and physicals and also treat common ailments in the school. The Nurse Practitioners are able to write prescriptions so that children can be served without parents missing time from work or waiting for a doctor's appointment. The mental health providers are also able to see the students in the schools. All students can be served regardless of their insurance status. School Health Readiness had a total of 336 somatic health and 1,143 mental health visits last year. The School Health Readiness program is currently working with Harford County Public Schools to explore opening at least one high school center during the upcoming year.



PREVENTIVE SERVICES

Preventive Health Services include harm reduction and health screening services. Harford County Health Department continues to provide breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screenings to county residents as well as educate the community on important harm reduction strategies to prevent injury and disease within the County.



Highlight: Naloxone Training & Distribution

In response to the Opioid crisis, the Local Addictions Authority (LAA) trained 1,716 individuals in overdose education and almost 2,000 Narcan kits were distributed to the community. A new pilot project to increase access to Narcan through local pharmacies was implemented and almost 300 individuals benefited over the course of four months. The LAA provided outreach at over 88 community events, more than one every week in fiscal year 2018.

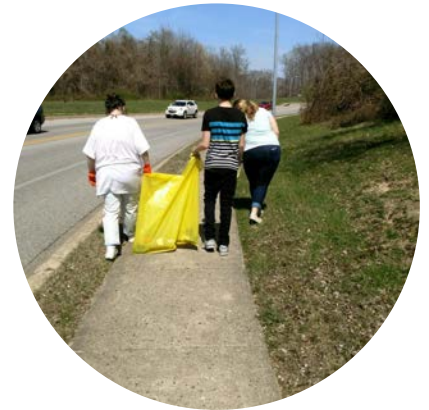
Highlight: Cancer Screening Program to Expand to Lung Cancer in 2019

The goal of the Cancer Prevention, Education, Screening and Treatment (CPEST) program is to reduce cancer deaths and disparities through the implementation of community-based programs for early screening. In addition to breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screenings currently provided, the Health Department's Cancer Prevention Program is preparing to launch a new Lung Cancer Screening Program beginning in 2019. Individuals between the ages 50 and 80 who are at high risk for lung cancer and meet eligibility requirements may apply. Services provided by the program include a link to a physician, lung cancer screening, support services, appointment management, assistance with barriers (i.e. transportation, language), and appointment follow-up. Clients will also be linked to local tobacco cessation programs if needed.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

Harford County Health Department's Division of Social Work Services provides health services to school-aged children and adolescents within the county. Services include:

- Teen Diversion Program



Highlight: Teen Diversion Becomes CARF Accredited

Teen Diversion is a day treatment program for youths aged 12-17 that provides intensive mental health and psychiatric rehabilitation services. In November 2017, Teen Diversion received a 3-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International to provide Community Integration for Children and Adolescents and received psychiatric rehabilitation licensure under new behavioral health regulations. In April 2018, the program received additional accreditation from CARF to provide Integrated Outpatient Treatment and anticipates licensure as an Outpatient Mental Health Clinic in the first quarter of fiscal year 2019. This continued accreditation ensures the services provided to clients are more readily accessible and their quality exceeds expectations.



DIRECTORY OF SERVICES



Thomas Hays Building

120 South Hays Street

Bel Air, MD 21014

Phone: 410.838.1500

Services: Administration,
Behavioral Health, Environmental
Health, Health Insurance, MA Transportation,
& Vital Records



Swan Creek Care Coordination

2015 Pulaski Highway

Havre de Grace, MD 21078

Phone: 410.942.7999

Services: Care Coordination and help
in applying for Medical Assistance

Swan Creek WIC

2027 Pulaski Highway, Suite 107

Havre de Grace, MD 21078

Phone: 410.939.6680

Services: Women, Infants, and
Children (WIC) Program



Edgewood Dental Clinic

2204 Hanson Rd.

Edgewood, MD 21040

Phone: 443.922.7670

Services: Dental



Health Services Clinic

1 North Main Street

Bel Air, MD 21014

Phone: 410.638.3060

Services: HIV Testing &
Healthcare for the Homeless

Teen Diversion Program

253 Paradise Rd.

Aberdeen, MD 21001

Phone: 410.273.5681

Services: School Health
Readiness, Teen Diversion

Infants & Toddlers Program

100 Thomas Run Road

Bel Air, MD 21015

Phone: 410-638-3823

Services: Serves Children
from Birth to Age 3 with
Developmental Delays





Harford County Health Department

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Bel Air, MD 21014
(410) 838-1500
harfordcountyhealth.com

