



## **Administration**

### Environmental Health Practice Challenges and Research Needs for U.S. Health Departments

- Niki Lemin is co-author of a recently published article in *Environmental Health Perspectives* titled "[Environmental Health Practice Challenges and Research Needs for U.S. Health Departments.](#)" The commentary article identifies priority challenges and related research needs to catalyze effective delivery of essential environmental public health services for common environmental health program areas in health departments.

### HealthSpace

- Work has begun on development of sewage treatment system and private water system modules. Once implemented, this will be the first time that all programs in the division are on the same electronic data system. The cloud-based system will be used for data management services and to perform inspections in the field.

### Countywide Geographical Information System (GIS) Planning

- Alex Evans, Adrian Allen, and Sarah Fink, along with David Norris and Kelly Trabue from the Division of Health Systems and Planning, attended the annual planning meeting between Franklin County GIS users and Esri. Staff discussed the county's GIS goals, needs, and projects planned for 2020; learned about new technology updates and demos from Esri; and networked with GIS users from other county agencies.

### Air Quality Sensor Network

- Alex Evans participated in the first meeting of the Air Quality Sensor Network subcommittee of Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Energy and Air Quality Working Group. The subcommittee will work to establish a clean air network in Central Ohio using 20 low-cost air quality monitors, support research, and determine the audience and desired impacts of the program. Other subcommittee members include representatives from MORPC, Columbus Public Health, Ohio State University, and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

### Grants

- *Data Science for Social Good* – The DSSG Fellowship at Carnegie Mellon University is a summer program to train aspiring data scientists to work on machine learning, data science, and artificial intelligence projects with social impact in a fair and equitable manner. Alex Evans, Sarah Fink, and Charlie Broschart applied to be project partners for the 2020 program. If selected, a team of 4-5 fellows will work with these staff to develop a spatial model to predict areas expecting increased mosquito activity based on previous mosquito trap counts, weather data, and other spatial data. The tool would be used to help inform mosquito control activities going forward.

### Plumbing & Medical Gas Workforce Needs

- *Association of Ohio Health Commissioners Plumbing Workforce Subcommittee* – Niki Lemin and Charlie Broschart have participated in this subcommittee and a draft report will be shared with AOHC. The subcommittee's charge was to look at workforce issues, review the rules to consider proposed changes, and define the public health significance of plumbing programs.
- To address internal staff shortages in the Plumbing & Med Gas Section, discussions have taken place with the Department of Commerce Division of Industrial Compliance to provide back-up assistance.

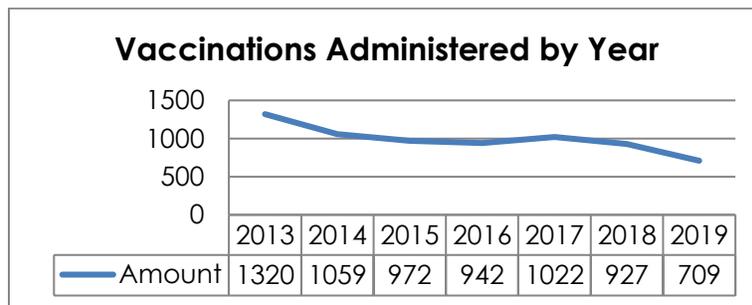
## Occupational License Review Report

- Per Ohio Revised Code Section 101.63, established by Senate Bill 255 from the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, Ohio is conducting a six-year review of occupational licenses. A report has been issued and the purpose of the report is to assist with drafting legislation that will help fix and clean-up state license requirements to better accommodate Ohio's workforce.
- Proposed changes include eliminating licensure for Radon Tester, Radon Mitigation Contractor, and Lead Clearance Technician; and, lowering continuing education hours, increasing license renewal, and/or reducing licensure fees for Radon Mitigation Specialist, Lead Inspector, Lead Abatement Contractor, Lead Risk Assessor, Lead Abatement Project Designer, and Lead Abatement Worker.
- Changes are also proposed for Sanitarian and Sanitarian-in-Training Registration: changing license title to Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) and REHS-in-Training, requiring completion of national licensing exam, lowering continuing education hours, increasing license renewal, and reducing licensure fees.

## Community Environmental Health

### Rabies Clinic

- The first 2020 low-cost rabies vaccination clinic was January 31<sup>st</sup> at Franklin County Fair Grounds, Edwards Building, from 1pm-3pm. 191 cats and dogs were vaccinated (11 cats, 180 dogs).
- Below is a summary of the number of vaccinations administered since 2013. The number of vaccinations administered has steadily declined and the program will be evaluated in 2020 to determine the necessity for four clinics.



### Vector Control

- Congratulations to Sarah Fink for successfully passing the REHS exam!
  - Passing the REHS exam is a requirement to become a Registered Sanitarian in Ohio. It is a national exam covering areas of environmental health including emergency response, vector control, sewage sanitation, hazardous materials, food safety, lead, recreational water, bio-medical, solid waste, epidemiology, air quality, and more!

## Food Safety & School Health

### NEHA REHS/RS Job Task Analysis Workshop

- The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is updating its Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) exam blueprint and has selected Garrett Guillozet to serve as a subject matter expert (SME). The purpose of the workshop is to review the exam blueprint, determine if it reflects current professional practice and make changes accordingly.

Food Safety Highlights from January:

Complaints Received and Investigated	18
Follow-up Inspections Conducted	71
Consultation Inspection Conducted	17
Inspections Conducted	468
Warning Letters Issued	3
Administrative Hearings Held	1
Temporary Licenses Issued	0
Temporary Events Inspected	0

Food Renewals

- The 2020 Food License renewals have been mailed. All licenses expire March 1, 2020. If renewals are not received or post-marked by March 1, 2020, there is a mandatory 25% late penalty assessed to the application.

Training

- Staff recently attended Reduced Oxygen Packaging, Variance Review, Mobile Food Service, and Dogs on Outdoor Dining Areas training. These trainings are offered by the Ohio Department of Health and are offered as continuing education hours.

**Plumbing & Medical Gas**

December Invoicing

- December invoicing for plumbing is highlighted below, along with comparisons to 2016-2019.

December	2019	2018	2017	2016
Contract Cities	\$74,691.00	\$59,821.00	\$68,269.50	\$31,200.00
Townships	\$43,109.00	\$36,382.00	\$31,760.00	\$26,192.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$117,800.00	\$96,203.00	\$100,029.50	\$57,392.00

Year-end totals for plumbing invoicing are highlighted below, along with comparisons to 2016-2018.

Year	2019	2018	2017	2016
Contract Cities	\$843,938.40	\$670,349.55	\$721,537.50	\$705,294.00
Townships	\$278,767.00	\$291,844.00	\$282,931.00	\$213,842.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$1,122,705.40	\$962,193.55	\$1,004,468.50	\$919,136.00

**Sustainability**

- Jennie McAdams is working with staff from Communications & Marketing and Finance & Business Operations Offices to create an internal sustainability model policy and practices.
- Mike Adair and Mike Lopinsky presented at the Health Works Franklin County quarterly meeting on January 12, 2020. Information regarding the Healthy Homes Program at FCPH was shared.
- To promote Radon Action Month, staff posted on social media, created a new banner (it was displayed at the Rabies clinic), and sent flyers and test kits to targeted townships (i.e., Clinton and Franklin).

**Water Quality**

- During the months of December 2019 and January 2020, two Water Quality staff members spent time in Pickaway County assisting the Pickaway County Health Department. Staff shared their expertise in sewage treatment and were instrumental in providing valuable experience to several new Environmental Health sanitarians there. A total of 78 hours was spent assisting Pickaway County.

Respectfully Submitted by: Niki Lemin, MS, RS/REHS Assistant Health Commissioner/Environmental Health Director, 2/6/2020.