

Broome County Health Department Annual Report

2024



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Message From the Interim Public Health Director

2024 began a time of transition for the health department. There were several public health employees that entered well deserved retirement, after many years of vital public service. Retirees of most significance within the group were both of our dedicated and extraordinary public health leaders, Mary McFadden, Public Health Director and Dr. Christopher Ryan, Medical Director. We thank them all for their service and wish them all the best!

As expected, any leadership change brings a period of transition. While the department grows through and with these changes, we hope to foster fresh perspectives and new innovative ideas in our approach to public health. The objectives identified in our 2023-2025 Strategic Plan will continue to be instrumental as we navigate this transition and move the department forward in 2025. Our focus continues to be prioritizing staff wellbeing, strengthening our infrastructure, and enhancing our internal and external communications. We will work toward reinforcing relationships and collaborative efforts with our partners, increasing the health department's presence in the community, and improving our accountability with the public.

In 2024, we were fortunate to welcome our new Medical Director, Dr. Lazarus Gehring. He brings a wealth of exceptional knowledge and experience as a physician with a local medical practice who has also practiced medicine internationally. With Dr. Gehring's invaluable perspective and passion for community health, we look forward to the new year with remarkable optimism.

Lynette Bellmore
Interim Public Health Director



Message From the Medical Director

Here at the Broome County Health Department, we are striving to take public health into a new dynamic era by using progressive health measures focusing on education, service, health equity, healthy lifespan, and utilizing the principles of OneHealth to guide our responses to communicable disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and other public health emergencies. While doing this, our goal is to foster solid community ties between our local hospital systems, outpatient offices, and the various important care programs throughout our community. Our objective is to bring public health into the sphere of vigorous community discussion and to follow solid evidence for appropriate community health measures. This is an exciting time for public health, and it is an honor to serve the residents of Broome County as we approach the coming year.

Dr. Lazarus Gehring
Medical Director



Mission And Vision Statements

Mission

“Broome County Health Department serves our residents by promoting and protecting public health through education and prevention.”

Vision

“Optimal health and equity where we live, learn, work, and play.”



Meet Our Team

Lynette Bellmore
Dr. Lazarus Gehring
Catherine Fedor
Carrie Horton
Laurie Rackett
Beth Smalt
Tim Swan
Brittany Vincent
Kayla Woodring
Deanna Walsh
Andin Kovarik
Blenda Smith
Melissa Sutherland
Lana Rauzin
Yvonne Johnston
Susan Blythe
Melissa Brennan
Kathleen Marsh
Chloe Hunker
Tracy Mahar
Chelsea Reome-Nedlik
Connor Lawless
Heather Ryan
Kara Searles
Emily Polanish
Ty Shields
Laura Kelly
Margo Zodikoff
Magdalena Gareca
Grace Merrill
Becky Gelunas

Nikole Hurlbert
Alicia Spencer
Brooke Traver
Devin Link
Christine Marion
Michael Bender
Jason Zheng
Mackenzie Squair
Becky Cronk
Bonnie Ayers
Colleen Kachmar
Roberta May
Linda Mohr
Leon Clement
Mark Shuba
Amber Pleus
Marissa Knapp
Abby Kaiser
Michelle Bertoni
Juliet Cole
Scott Spicer
Cole Margarites
Carol Peeling
Leslie Gale-Cseledy
David Spicer
Kasandra Prikazsky
Lacey Stevens
Megan Westcott
Nicole Brown
Patricia Davies
Patricia Stevens
Stephanie Fuller
Tenisha Rivers-Hill
Kristine Jessup
Michelle Figuerado
Peggy Duffy
Carrie Colgan
Charlene Starchok
Christopher Errante



Heather Ousterhout
Pamela Spak
Silvy Sibó
Matthew Thorton
Katelyn Shear
Tameira Card
Natalie Camber
Alexis Gates
Josh Phelps
Ben Holden
Victoria Perkins
Sarah Walker
Renee Dutcher
Kamaram Fisher
Dan Furman
Justin Lewis
Matt Laine
Mark Schuster
Tierra Starkweather
Heather Rybacki
Timothy Allen
Mariana Barrancos
Margaret Reynolds
Andrew Mitchell



Special Acknowledgements

County Executive & Team
Jason Garnar, Colleen Wagner,
Michael Ponticello

**Health & Human Services
Committee**
Jason Shaw, Louie Augustini, Matt
Hilderbrant, Kim Myers, Mark
Whalen

Health Advisory Board
Kay Boland, Dr. David Carter, Jeff
Davis, Wayne Mitteer, Dr. Richard
Moose, Kim Myers, John Spencer,
Dr. Ann Teng

Staff Updates

The Broome County Health Department was Happy to Welcome:

Dr. Lazarus Gehring
Devin Link
Kara Searles
Brooke Traver
Becky Gelunas
Emily Polanish
Ty Shields
Kristine Jessup
Matthew Thornton
Magdalena Gareca
Tameira Card
Mariana Barrancos
Maleeyah Brown
Natalie Camber
Jontay Card
Alexis Gates
Amber Pleus
Tim Allen
Andrew Mitchell

Welcome



And Said Farewell To:

Mary McFadden
Dr. Ryan
Melissa Salasny
Pat Wood
Amy Fassold
Aimee Chalusiant
Peter Haff
Creig Hebdon
Kathy Czebiniak
Kristin Russell
Isabelle Depa
Maleeyah Brown
Jontay Card
Tim Allen



Health Department Programs and Services

Environmental Health

Water Monitoring
Toxic/Solid Waste Dumpsites
Food Services
Wastewater Treatment
Indoor Air Quality (Tobacco and Non-tobacco)
Temporary Residences, Campgrounds and Children's Camps
Mobile Home Parks
Rabies Control
Swimming Pool and Beach Inspection
Childhood Lead and Lead Hazard Control
Tick-Borne Disease Prevention
Emergency Response to Environmental hazards
Public Health Nuisances

Women, Infants and Children

Nutrition Assessment and Education
Breastfeeding Support and Equipment
Food Options & Farmers Market Vouchers
Referrals to Community Partners

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Broome County Medical Reserve Corps
Project Public Health Ready
Accreditation

Today's theme is...
Emergency Preparedness



PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK 2024

Maternal Child Health

Child Find
Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs
Early Intervention
Preschool Special Education
Healthy Families Broome

Community Health

Cancer Services Program of the Southern Tier
Creating Healthy Schools and Communities
Tobacco Free Broome and Tioga
Traffic Safety Program
Child Passenger Safety Program
Handicapped Parking Education Program
Immunization Action Plan
Lead Poisoning Prevention
Lead Rental Registry
Clinic Services (STD's, Immunizations, Tuberculosis)
Communicable Disease Control & Surveillance
HIV Counseling & Testing
Vaccines for Children & Adults Programs
Welcome Baby Outreach
Community Health Assessment & Improvement Plan
Health Advisory Board
Policy Committee
Infection Control Committee



Overdose Prevention Program

Coordinate the Broome Overdose Action Collaborative
Free Narcan (Naloxone) Trainings
Substance Use Disorder and Harm Reduction Education
Anti-Stigma Campaign and Education
Referrals for Basic Needs and Linkage to Care
Management of Opioid Settlement Funds



Program Acronyms

- CFRT – Child Fatality Review Team
- CHSC – Creating Healthy Schools & Communities
- CLPPP+ – Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program+
- CPIA – Cancer Prevention in Action
- CSP – Cancer Services Program

- EI – Early Intervention
- HFB – Healthy Families Broome
- HNP – Healthy Neighborhoods Program
- HNP – Healthy Neighborhoods Program
- HUD – Housing & Urban Development

- IAP – Immunization Action Plan
- OPP – Opioid Prevention Program
- TFBT – Tobacco Free Broome & Tioga
- TSP – Traffic Safety Program
- WIC – Women, Infants, and Children

Public Health In Action



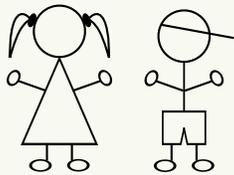
**Total WIC
Participants Served**
2022: 17,679
2023: 18,254
2024: 19,011



**Healthy Families
Enrollments**
2022: 101
2023: 104
2024: 106



Welcome Baby Calls
2022: 573
2023: 1,060
2024: 1683



**Early Intervention
Referrals**
2022: 548
2023: 480
2024: 493



**Bicycle Helmets
Distributed**
2022: 327
2023: 361
2024: 403



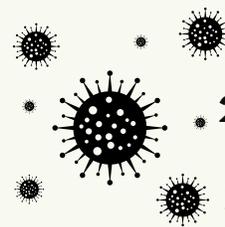
**Total Number of
Clinic Patients
Served**
2022: 861
2023: 1,257
2024: 1,335



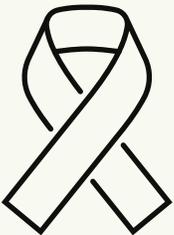
**Animal Bite
Investigations**
2022: 723
2023: 724
2024: 739



**Clinic Services
Provided**
2022: 3,598
2023: 769
2024: 619



**Disease
Investigation**
2022: 28,338
2023: 11,869
2024: 10,799



**Cancer Screening
Referrals**
2022: 448
2023: 295
2024: 410



**HIV
Tests**
2022: 489
2023: 533
2024: 619



**New WIC
Participants Enrolled**
2022: 548
2023: 589
2024: 717



**TB Clinic
Visits**
2022: 100
2023: 220
2024: 243



**Food Service
Inspections**
2022: 889
2023: 1,141
2024: 1,033



**Number of Children
with Special Health Care
Needs Referred**
2022: 83
2023: 627
2024: 648



**Child Safety
Seat Checks**
2022: 172
2023: 214
2024: 165



**Number of Tobacco
Free Outdoor &
Organizational
Policies developed**
2022: 9
2023: 7
2024: 31



**Number of people
educated in Child
Passenger Safety**
2022: 97
2023: 76
2024: 284

Program and Division Highlights

- In response to a letter from the CFRT, meetings were held with the Federal Railroad Administration and NYS DOT regarding preventative interventions and the availability of funding potential projects
- BCHD conducted a Public Health Emergency Exercise, which consisted of notifying staff and initiating procedural site setups for a Point Of Dispensing location. Staff prepared to provide medication to the public in case of an outbreak or exposure.
- CPiA staff worked with UHS and Binghamton University to provide an HPV vaccination and education day
- The CHSC team continued to work with NYSDOH on preparing for the annual CHSC Convening, which was held in Binghamton in May. Staff met with grant representatives and partners to plan for the two-day event.



- CSP met with Senator Lea Webb's office to discuss the CSP program and brainstormed collaborations with the NAACP
- TFBT staff presented to the Owego Rotary club, mobilizing 10 Rotarians to contact the Village of Owego regarding a smoke-free ordinance
- TSP coordinated a nationally recognized victim impact speaker, Jacy Good, to present her Hang Up and Drive program at UE, CF, and SV High Schools
- OPP staff met with Cortland County to mentor them on developing a County Naloxone Distribution policy.

- WIC staff attended Celebration of Youth - Whitney Point Carl E Adams tabling event and provided a media interview on new proposed WIC Food Package changes
- IAP hosted immunization training for U.E. school nurses and worked with local libraries to run a "teddy bear clinic" for children to model doctors' visits with stuffed animals
- CLPPP+, HNP, and HUD ran an art/photo contest asking people to show what a healthy neighborhood meant to them. The contest was featured in NYSACHO's monthly newsletter.
- EI tabled at Ross Park Zoo and the DSS Community Fair.
- With ELC grant funds, supplies distributed to community agencies to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. We worked with Austin Air to purchase healthcare quality air purifiers, and Henry Schein to purchase medical gloves, level 3 procedure masks, disinfectant wipes, and hand sanitizer. The supplies were distributed to 88 community agencies within Broome County including children's summer camps, homeless shelters, senior centers, food pantries, firehouses, and ambulance squads.



Program and Division Highlights Continued

- CPiA collaborated with other NYS contractors through the Skin Cancer Action Team, the NYS HPV Coalition, and the NYSCC Quarterly Member meetings.
- CHSC joined the NYS Prevention Agenda to improve health and well-being for all New Yorkers and to promote health equity for populations facing disparities.
- CSP collaborated with PALS SkyHope, a resource that provides free flights for cancer patients traveling more than 2 hours for cancer treatment. We were able to utilize this service for someone in need in our community.
- TFBT staff met with Assemblyman Joe Angelino and Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo to educate them on program initiatives.
- TSP facilitated a large-scale child safety seat check event on National Seat Check Saturday and participated in the Mothers and Babies Community Baby Shower.
- OPP staff hosted three Broome Overdose Action Collaborative (BOAC) meetings in 2024, bringing over 100 multidisciplinary partners together. Staff also distributed 3,186 doses of Naloxone while educating 720 community members on its usage. OPP also launched several Naloxboxes in collaboration with the CNY Rotary to expand the accessibility of free Naloxone kits in Broome County.
- 50th WIC Anniversary!



- Broome County IAP began working with “We the People Vax”, a national coalition to raise awareness of immunizations.
- CLPPP+ tabled at a DSS service fair, presented to 3rd year medical students at SUNY Upstate, as well as organized lectures for resident doctors at the Regional Lead Resource Center.
- HFB hosted 3 diaper bag raffles for expectant families and parents with children under 3 months; information was distributed on Facebook and to over 35 agency partners. The result was 310 entrants with 278 following-up with HFB and concluded with 34 new enrollees.
- CFRT placed “ABCs of Safe Sleep” ads on the exterior of 5 Broome County Transit buses and on the interior of 20.
- Emergency Management Practicum was hosted with SUNY Upstate Medical and Binghamton University (MPH, Pharmacy, & Geography) students on a tabletop exercise.

A Year in Pictures!



Health Department Staff Development



- **TFBT staff attended CNY Vaping Press Conference on Communication Practices to Advance Public Health Goals, Drug Free Communities Support Program, and Youth Vaping Prevention webinar**
- **Traffic Safety program attended NYS Child Passenger Safety Advisory Board as a regional representative to discuss statewide child passenger safety programming.**
- **TSP attended annual Highway Safety Symposium.**
- **Overdose Prevention staff attended the CDC's Overdose Data to Action kick-off meeting in Atlanta, which included webinars on Linkage and Retention to Care, Community of Practice, and Evaluation Community of Practice**
- **OPP attended NYS Rural Health Symposium in Binghamton, as well as Redefining Recovery**
- **Attended NYS WIC Association Conference in Albany**
- **WIC staff completed the following trainings: Building relationships with community partners- increase our partnerships in the community, thinking outside of our normal partnerships, Safety in Supplementation, helping participants find safe alternatives to breastfeeding and encouraging moms to breastfeed**

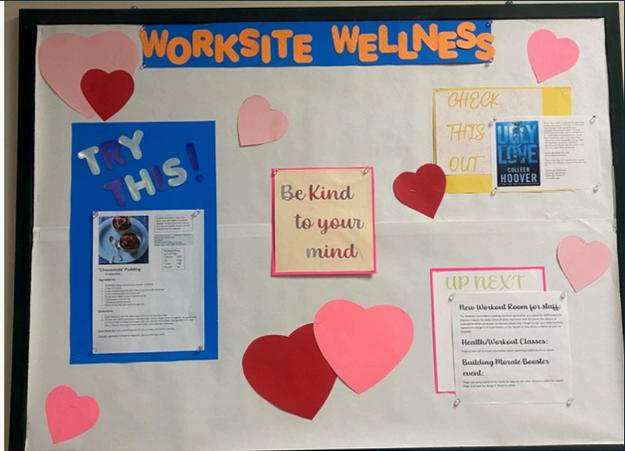


- **CPiA staff attended the Society of Public Health Educators conference in St Louis - theme was Gateway to Healthy Equity, Global Solutions to Strengthen Health Education, and Promotion Capacity.**
- **CPiA staff completed the GW Cancer Center's "Action for Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) Change: A Training"**
- **Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC) staff attended a statewide School Coordinator meeting where the importance of incorporating professional development opportunities into schools was discussed.**
- **Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC) staff attended a "Complete Streets: Bike Safety" training and a secondary Complete Streets training which focused on strengthening partnerships with municipalities.**
- **CSP staff attended CPR and Stop the Bleed classes at the Health Department.**
- **CSP staff attended monthly Cancer Services Program statewide meetings/trainings and calls.**
- **Tobacco staff attended the University of Albany Tobacco Control Institute training.**



- **IAP staff attended the National Conference for Immunization Coalitions & Partnerships**
- **IAP staff attended CNY Adult Immunization Coalition meeting and presented on vaccine misinformation**
- **CLPPP+ staff had their annual 1:1 meeting with NYSDOH to discuss current practices and receive state-level updates**
- **Legal Aid Society attended CLPPP+ /HNP/ HUD quarterly meeting to share information on changes in tenants' rights and legal services**
- **El staff attended CYSHCN webinars: Local Health Department quarterly meeting and final collaborative meeting with Westchester Institute for Human Development**
- **El staff attended Supporting the Family-Child Dyad in Home Visiting and Itinerant Practices; Resilient Community Learning Symposium; NYSACHO's Presentation and Large County Discussion; El All County Call**

Staff Wellness Events



Health Department Fiscal Report

2024 Revenue By Division						
Division	Dept. Income	State Aid	Fed. Aid	Misc. Inc.	Total	% of Total
Admin.	\$205,410	\$781,577	0	\$3,854	\$990,841	5.75%
Env Health	\$338,540	\$384,028	0	\$134	\$722,702	4.19%
Clinics	\$150,695	\$409,317	0	\$339	\$560,351	3.25%
MCH & D	\$1,274,540	\$5,748,632	0	\$151,810	\$7,174,982	41.64%
Grants	\$51,974	\$2,411,264	\$4,400,000	\$917,957	\$7,781,195	45.16%
TOTAL	\$2,021,159	\$9,734,818	\$4,400,000	\$1,074,094	\$17,230,071	100%
% of Total	12%	56%	26%	6%		100%

The Broome County Health Department's largest revenue source is funding from New York State (56%) followed by support from the federal government (26%). The majority of our revenue sources (45.16%) is through the 32 different grants held at the health department for a total of \$7,781,195. The largest increase of this is due to the recent addition of our Lead Rental Registry funding.

Health Department Fiscal Report Continued

2024 Expenditures By Division		
Division	Expenditures	% of Total
Administration	\$2,441,785	10%
Environmental Health	\$1,167,200	5%
Clinics	\$1,137,574	5%
MCH & D	\$12,706,307	50%
Grants	\$7,781,264	30%
TOTAL	\$25,234,130	100%

The Maternal Child Health and Development division was the largest segment (50%) of the health department's budget. This division focuses on serving children at risk for or diagnosed with developmental delays and disabilities. They offer assistance for young children ages 0-3 and 3-5 through their Early Intervention and Preschool programs, respectively.

Overall, the Broome County Health Department was able to execute a fiscally responsible budget for 2024, with county support proposed at only 30.17%.