SKOKIE HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FY2017
ANNUAL REPORT
CHANGE • PROGRESS • INSPIRATION
To the Skokie Community:

Our desire to provide exceptional service influences everything we do, it is one of our Core Values. Whether aiding injured wildlife, helping people quit smoking, or inspecting restaurants, Skokie Health Department personnel strive to ensure that our interactions are consistently professional and effective. Over the course of six months this past year, we offered customer satisfaction surveys to everyone who received a service from the Health Department, including businesses, schools, residents and visitors. I am gratified to report that the responses were overwhelmingly positive, and written comments from the surveys are included throughout this report.

Another of our core values is teamwork. Two major accomplishments during the year, producing the first Skokie Environmental Sustainability Plan and the 2017 Skokie Community Health Plan, involved extensive collaboration between Village departments, Village Boards and Commissions, numerous community partners, and the public. The Board of Health was deeply engaged with both plans, as were many of you who gave thoughtful input. We are enthusiastically moving forward to implement the recommended initiatives.

In closing, I will highlight the Health Departments overarching vision that all we do is designed to create a healthy, equitable community. This idea was beautifully represented by the Skokie Welcomes Everyone campaign promoted by SkokieCares. The Board of Health and Health Department have wholeheartedly embraced this campaign along with many other community members who are working to welcome and support everyone who lives in Skokie.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Counard, MD, MPH
Director of Health

VISION:
Create a healthy, equitable community.

MISSION:
Work together with community members to promote and protect human, animal, and environmental health in a fair and compassionate manner.

CORE VALUES:
• Team Work
• Prevention
• Best Practices
• Innovation
• Education
• Stewardship
• Customer Service
Dental Health Needs Assessment Completed

Dr. Larry Williams, Board of Health member and dentist, assessed the dental health needs in Skokie, by determining the dental health needs of children attending public schools, residents of the six long-term care facilities, and people using the Niles Township Food Pantry. Dr. Williams also contacted Skokie dentists, asking them to provide care for adults without insurance. Twelve dentists agreed to help. This is important, because an estimated 50 percent of adults do not have dental insurance.

For information on access to dental care, visit www.skokie.org or call 847-933-8252.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

• 2017 Skokie Community Health Plan
• Served on Medical Reserve Corps
• Public Health Partners of Excellence Awards
• Volunteered at Community Flu Shot Clinics
• Supported “Skokie Cares”
• Served on IPLAN Committee
• Advocated for Access to Care
PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Back Row: L-R
Jacklie Johnson
Bruce Jones
Sue Reisberg
Darlene Codd

Middle Row: L-R
Shelley Wax
Marianne Maggi
Penny Staffney
Cindy Starks
Claudia Braden
Maricar Fernandez

Front Row: L-R
Ryan Reconnu
Dwayne McLin
Lillian LaSanta
Dr. Catherine Counard
David Clough
Bill Kok

Not Pictured:
Lori Kaplan

“Been here 40 years, this is a fine facility! People are very nice & well qualified.”
(Skokie Resident)

THANK YOU!

Four long-time Health Department employees were recognized for their combined 110 years of service!

- Marianne Maggi: Animal Control Officer (30 years)
- Bruce Jones: Environmental Health Supervisor (30 years)
- Bill Kok: Sanitarian (25 years)
- Dwayne McLin: Sanitarian (25 years)
The Board of Health and IPLAN Committee spent two years developing the 2017 Community Health Plan, a project that involved obtaining substantial community input. Nearly 2,000 community health surveys were completed and 53 stakeholders interviewed. The new five-year plan has four health priorities:

- **Healthy Active Living Across the Lifespan**
- **Social and Psychological Support**
- **Social Determinants of Health: Promoting Equity**
- **Access to Healthcare**

There are 65 initiatives proposed to address these priorities. Fulfilling the plan requires participation and collaboration with numerous partners. Great work team!

* IPLAN - Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs*
Robin Fledgling

Skokie Animal Control Division receives many calls in midsummer about fledglings. *Fledglings are young birds that have left the nest but can’t yet fly.* Their parents continue to feed them while they hop around on the ground as their flight feathers grow in.

Corn Snake

This beautiful orange and yellow pet corn snake was reported loose in a Skokie neighborhood. After Animal Control Officer Marianne Maggie collected the snake and posted signs in the area the owner claimed his pet. He lived just three houses away.

Suzy

Animal Control Officer Ryan Reconnu picked up a very pregnant sweet Pit Bull Mastiff mix dog and transferred her to Chicago Bully Breed Rescue.

A few days later she had a litter of five healthy puppies. “Suzy” and her puppies are in great hands and happy to be off the streets.

“(Animal Control Officers) Ryan, Maggie, and Lori are top-notch professionals. Very responsive and very nice.”

(Skokie Resident)
Skokie Environmental Sustainability Plan

A Village team including Health, Public Works, and Planning collaborated with the UIC School of Public Health to produce the first “Skokie Environmental Sustainability Plan.” The plan was developed at the request of the Board of Health and Sustainable Environmental Advisory Commission, and involved significant community input over a number of years. Five areas are addressed by the plan through objectives, programs and education:

- **Water Management**
- **Air Quality**
- **Energy Conservation**
- **Transportation**
- **Waste Management**

*This plan can be viewed at [http://www.skokie.org/Green.cfm](http://www.skokie.org/Green.cfm)*

“The inspectors I have had, have all been amazing.”
(Skokie Business Owner)

### Drinking Water Safety

All Skokie drinking water comes from Lake Michigan, after being treated by the City of Evanston. The Health Department collects over 70 drinking water samples each month in Skokie for testing to ensure that our drinking water is safe. This year’s 2016 Report concludes that Skokie’s water supply is in compliance with all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirements.

*The annual report is also available at [http://www.skokie.org/2016waterreport.pdf](http://www.skokie.org/2016waterreport.pdf)*

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

#### TOP CRITICAL FOOD SERVICE VIOLATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foods at Improper Temperature</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of Insects or Rodents</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improperly Stored/Labeling of Toxins</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Food Service Manager Not Present</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to Properly Clean and Sanitize Equipment</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
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#### ACTIVITIES FY17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction Plan Reviews</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Inspections (includes Nursing)</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pool Inspections/Re-Inspections</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid Waste Inspections/Re-Inspections</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking Water Samples Taken</td>
<td>916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Service Inspection/Re-Inspections</td>
<td>1,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rat Sites</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citations Issued</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WNV Positive Mosquito Samples Samples</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Emergency Preparedness Drill

The Skokie Health Department tested its ability to provide medications to Village staff and their families in the event of an emergency. This exercise was conducted as part of an Illinois state-wide exercise, and tested the region’s mass prophylaxis planning, distribution, and dispensing capabilities. It involved all Village employees as well as the Skokie Medical Reserve Corps.

During a two-hour period. Employees from Village Hall, Public Works, Police, and Fire drove to a central location to receive “medications” for themselves and their family members, just as they would during an emergency. This is the first test of this aspect of the emergency preparedness plan. The state evaluators were impressed with the Village for our exceptional teamwork, especially the smooth coordination of staff from all departments over the 20-minute time blocks.

Measles (MMR) and Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccinations for Skokie Daycare Workers

Following an outbreak of measles at a daycare center outside of Skokie that was related to an ill, unvaccinated worker, the Illinois legislature passed a law requiring daycare workers to be vaccinated against measles and pertussis (whooping cough). Health Department nurses assisted by vaccinating 37 Skokie daycare workers from five sites. The vaccine was paid for by the daycare operators.

Smoking remains a significant preventable cause of illness and death in Skokie. The Health Department has responsibility by offering Courage To Quit classes three times a year. This six week supportive program is more effective than trying to quit using other methods.

“For more information call the Skokie Health Department at 847-933-8252.
Walking and Biking in Skokie: “Complete Streets”

The top three top diagnoses for Skokie residents admitted to the hospital between 2010 and 2014 were hypertension, diabetes, and hyperlipidemia. All can be improved with exercise, however 35 percent of people who completed the 2016 Community Health Survey said they did not exercise regularly. The easiest and most accessible form of exercise is walking, and this can go a long way towards improving overall health and quality of life.

The Village has adopted a “Complete Streets” policy, in part to promote walking, by connecting all Skokie neighborhoods with sidewalks that feel safe and inviting. By building a supportive environment, it will be easier for residents to incorporate healthy activities like walking into an everyday routine.

Zika Virus in the News

Zika virus, a mosquito transmitted infection, has been in the news for more than a year. While typically causing a mild illness, the virus can cause severe birth defects. Women who are pregnant or thinking of becoming pregnant, and their partners, should take precautions to prevent mosquito bites. Fortunately the types of mosquitoes that carry Zika virus are not found in the Chicago area. Two Skokie residents who traveled outside of the USA are known to have been infected with Zika during 2016.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are the most common reportable infections in the Village. These infections can be prevented by practicing safer sex which includes use of latex condoms, abstinence, having fewer sexual partners, and getting tested.

“I think the Health Department is doing an excellent job. I am proud of Skokie’s Health Department.” (Skokie Resident)

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES CALENDER YEAR 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED</th>
<th>VACCINE PREVENTABLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syphilis</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOOD RELATED</th>
<th>TRAVEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campylobactor</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Coli</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listeria</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmonella</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shigella</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTHER</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hep C, Chronic</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legionella</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>152</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>
Health Director Receives Alumni Award From UIC School Of Public Health

Dr. Catherine Counard was honored to receive the Health Policy and Administration Alumni Achievement Award from the UIC School of Public Health. The award is given for "outstanding professional achievement and contributions made to the field of public health". Dr. Counard was recognized for her work to strengthen the public health system in Illinois and nationally through legislation, public policy, and providing a nurturing environment for public health students. The celebration included Dr. Counard's family and was attended by 230 people at the Crystal Gardens on Navy Pier in Chicago.

Customer Satisfaction Surveys Give Positive Reviews!

Surveys were offered over a six-month period to all individuals and food service facilities that had interactions with Health Department staff. We received 237 Customer Satisfaction Surveys for the Personal Health, Animal Control, Rodent Control, and Food Safety programs. The results were overwhelmingly positive!

The Health Department has received all grant funds for FY16 and FY17 from the Illinois Department of Public Health.
During the Coming Year the Skokie Health Department will:

- Complete the 2017 State Re-certification process, including developing the next five-year Community Health Plan.
- Update the Dangerous and Vicious Animal Ordinance.
- Expand the community-wide “Rethink Your Drink” education program.
- Implement a euthanasia-by-injection program for sick or injured wildlife.
- Collaborate with the Public Works Department to create a map of lead drinking water service lines in the Village.
- Launch the new “Reach Out and Read” program for children cared for in Department clinics.
- Seek grant funds to support and develop Health Department programs and services.
- Ensure all Health Department personnel complete training pertinent to their job duties.
- Create a comprehensive annual report covering FY17 by October 2017.
- Continue to develop written policies and procedures for all Health Department divisions.
- Support and promote Board of Health initiatives during the year including, the Skokie Welcomes Everyone campaign.

“You guys are doing great in your job. You are an asset in the Village. Congratulations!”
(Skokie Resident)