<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directors Comments</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yates County Public Health Mission and Vision Statements</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yates County Public Health Committee Membership</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Table</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Personnel</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Health Assessment</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicable Disease Control</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunization Program</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Communicable Disease Control</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS Program</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis Control Program</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabies Control Program</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthropod-borne Disease Surveillance and Control</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Child Health Program</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Health</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Disease Prevention</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Diabetes Prevention Program</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional and Local Community Health Improvement Efforts</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worksite Wellness Committee/Program</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injury Prevention</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead Poisoning Prevention Program</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radon</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Health Services thru NYSDOH District Office</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Education and Community Involvement</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Preparedness Planning and Response</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medical Services Coordination</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Children’s Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with Special Health Care Needs</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Find</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Intervention Program</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PreSchool Special Education Program</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance Management/Quality Improvement</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 Financial Report</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Message from the Director

I am pleased to present the Yates County Public Health Department’s Annual Report to the Yates County Legislature. This report describes the programs and services provided during 2018 aimed at meeting the mission of the agency: promoting optimal health for people of all ages within our community. It is a reflection of the hard work and commitment of the staff as they work to address the needs of our community.

Throughout 2018, staff continued to work with community partners to implement evidence-based strategies as outlined in the 2016-2018 Community Health Improvement Plan that focus on Chronic Disease prevention and addressing substance use. While the evidence-based strategies have been very successful in areas of the nation, engaging those at most risk to attend the sessions and work towards health behavior changes is not a quick process. We also began the process of conducting a new community health assessment which will be completed in 2019 and will inform the development of the 2019-2020 Community Health Improvement Plan.

In the summer of 2018 we welcomed the PHAB Accreditation Team to our county to continue the process of seeking the status of national accreditation. The decision of the PHAB Board was to require a bit more work on our part with the development and submission of an Action Plan to be completed in 2019. I am confident that we will have our Action Plan approved and will during 2019, be able to demonstrate those few areas needing improvement have been met. Staff should be commended for their continued work on this endeavor.

In the fall of 2018 we entered into a Shared Services agreement with Schuyler County Public Health with the Director and Deputy Director positions shared between the two departments. Through this agreement we will explore ways of enhancing services to our community, while also sharing best practices, products and talents of our two staffs. We will look to report on the benefits of this agreement as well as the many other accomplishments of the department in our 2019 annual report.

Deborah A Minor, RN MPH
Director of Public Health
Incorporating the Ten Essential Public Health Services into the work conducted by the department, staff strive to prevent the spread of disease, protect community members from environmental hazards, prevent injuries, promote and encourage healthy behaviors, respond to disasters and emerging needs and assure the accessibility of quality health services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our Mission</th>
<th>Our Vision</th>
<th>Our Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To promote optimal health for all people through disease prevention, promotion of healthy behaviors, environmental risk reduction, assistance with access to care and facilitation of emergency preparedness; through education, policy development and collaboration within our community.</td>
<td>To bring about a healthier, safer, better informed community.</td>
<td>With integrity, compassion and commitment to excellence, we will apply best practices in the prevention of disease, promotion of wellness, and response to changing needs in our community.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ten Essential Public Health Services**

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems  
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community  
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues  
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems  
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts  
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety  
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable  
8. Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce  
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services  
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems
2018 Committee Membership

**Human Services Committee of the Legislature**
- Ed Bronson, Chairperson
- Leslie Church, Vice Chairperson
- Terry Button
- Carlie Chilson
- Bonnie Percy

The Yates County Legislature serves as our governing body through monthly reporting to the Human Services Committee.

**Professional Advisory Committee**
- Eleanor DeWitt, MD, Medical Director
- Vicki Dornberger, Speech Pathologist
- Mary Griffiths, Public Health Nurse
- Sara Christensen, RN, Supervising Public Health Nurse
- Deborah Minor, RN, Director of Public Health
- Susan Thomas, Medical Social Worker
- Kimberly Arnold, RN
- Erica Nesbitt, RN

Members of the Professional Advisory Committee are appointed by the Public Health Director and serve to provide oversight to the Quality Improvement Committee of the Public Health Department. The Professional Advisory Committee meets quarterly to review policy, complaints, incidents and QI initiatives. Minutes are reviewed by members of the Human Services Committee.

**S²AY (Steuben, Schuyler, Allegany, Yates) Rural Health Network/Health Advisory Committee**
- Ed Bronson, Yates County Legislator
- Amy Miller, Commissioner, Department of Social Services
- Deborah Minor, Director of Public Health
- Vacant, Community Representative

The S²AY Rural Health Network Board of Directors serves as the Public Health Advisory Committee. The Board of Directors is comprised of a legislator or supervisor, a consumer, a provider and the Public Health Director for each of the seven member counties.

The department also has several other advisory groups for specific programs including the Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council (LEICC), the Injury Prevention Coalition, the Yates County EMS Advisory Council, and the Public Health Emergency Operations Task Force.
Yates County Legislature

County Administrator

Medical Director (contract)

Director of Public Health/Patient Services/EI Official

Public Health & Licensed Home Care Agency

1.0 FTE DDPH

1.0 FTE EMS (Emergency Planning)

1.0 FTE PHN (Com Disease)

1.0 FTE PHN (QI Lead)

1.0 FTE PH Educator

1.0 FTE RN (MCH)

Clerical Support

1.0 FTE Principal Act Clerk

1.0 FTE Sr. Act Clerk

1.0 FTE Act Clerk

0.5 FTE Data Entry Clerk (contract)

Special Children's Services (CSHCN, EI, PHCP, Preschool)

1.0 FTE PH Specialist

0.5 Per Deim RN

Contracted Providers

March 2018
2018 Personnel

**Administrative Staff:**
Deborah A. Minor
Director of Public Health/Patient Services/Early Intervention Official
Dr. Eleanor DeWitt
Medical Director (contract)
Sara Christensen
Deputy Director of Public Health
Joy Jensen
FT Principle Account Clerk

**Support Staff:**
Terri Cadwell
FT Sr Account Clerk Typist
Carol Ogden
FT Account Clerk Typist

**Public Health Staff:**
Chris Warriner *
FT Coordinator EMS/Emergency Preparedness
Kathy Swarthout
FT Health Educator, Health Education
Jennifer Green
FT Public Health Nurse Communicable Disease Control
Mary Griffiths
FT Public Health Nurse Quality Improvement
Susan Simmons*
FT Public Health Nurse/Service Coordinator, Early Intervention
Angela Drucker*
FT Registered Nurse, Maternal-Child Health
Kristen Wagner**
FT Registered Nurse, Maternal-Child Health
Ann Murphy
FT Licensed Practical Nurse
Catherine Brown**
FT Public Health Specialist/Service Coordinator, Early Intervention
Elizabeth Brigham
Data entry/outreach Immunization/Lead (contract)

**Special Children’s Services:**
The Public Health Department also contracts with numerous agencies and individuals to deliver specialized services to children through the Preschool for Special Education program.

(FT = Full Time, PT = Part Time, *denotes retired/resigned/laid off during the year, ** denotes new employee)
Community Health Assessment

The primary authority and responsibility of each local health department is to promote, protect and improve the health of its residents by utilizing the Community Health Assessment (CHA). The Community Health Assessment is a comprehensive and systematic process of examining the health status of a population for the purposes of:

- Determining the general and disease-specific health of the community
- Assessing the underlying causes of poor health in the community
- Evaluating the effectiveness of program initiatives to maintain or improve health status
- Planning the utilization of resources to address health needs

The CHA is typically completed every four years in collaboration with the local hospital system: Finger Lakes Health. Numerous other public health system partners assist in this process including Finger Lakes Community Health, Rochester Primary Care Network, Office for the Aging, Finger Lakes Addictions Counseling & Referral Agency, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Yates County Department of Social Services and Yates County Community Services. In 2016, in an effort to better align hospital IRS requirements of a Community Health Service Plan every 3 years with the local health department CHA requirements, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) required local health departments (LHDs) to complete the assessment process and develop a CHIP one year early. LHDs were tasked with choosing two priority areas and appropriate focus areas from the NYSDOH Prevention Agenda as well as target disparities. In developing the CHIP, NYSDOH directed partners to select from the list of evidence-based interventions and strategies outlined in their Refresh Chart.

Health priorities for the 2016-2018 Community Health Improvement Plan:

1. Priority Area 1: Prevent Chronic Disease
   - Focus Area 1: Reduce Obesity in Children and Adults
   - Focus Area 3: Increase Access to High Quality Chronic Disease Preventative Care and Management in both Clinical and Community Settings

2. Priority Area 4: Promote Mental Health and Prevent Substance Abuse
   - Focus Area 1: Promote Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Well-Being

In addressing disparities, YCPH and partners chose to focus on addressing the following:

1. Lower rates of breastfeeding among women of lower socio-economic status (SES)
2. Lower rates of compliance with hypertension management among low-SES
3. Lower rates of chronic disease self-management among un- or under-employed, low-SES, male population
CHIP Progress Report

Accomplishments and highlights of activities conducted during 2018:

- In January 2018, the Diabetes Prevention Program was conducted in Penn Yan in collaboration with Finger Lakes Health and the Yates Community Center. It was coupled with a free 6 month gym membership and free gym shoes through Greater Rochester Health Foundation grant funding. Twenty-three Yates County residents participated in the program.
- A Self-Monitored Blood Pressure Program was completed in 2018 in partnership with Penn Yan Community Health, YMCA of Greater Rochester and the Yates Community Center. Six Yates County residents participated in the program.
- A Blood Pressure Loaner Program was initiated with 4 Yates County provider offices. Yates County Public Health distributed 16 digital blood pressure machines and the paperwork necessary to implement this program in provider offices. The program will be evaluated throughout 2019.
- Staff continue to actively participate in the coalitions to address substance use and suicide. Narcan trainings and kits were conducted for law enforcement, college students and community members.

Communicable Disease Control

Immunization Program

Immunizations for vaccine-preventable diseases are offered to the Community through scheduled appointments at monthly Immunization Clinics, by appointment at the Public Health Office and through the jail program. Vaccine is purchased by Yates County Public Health or provided by the New York State Department of Health and administered by public health nursing staff. Fifteen different childhood vaccines were offered to children under the age of 19 years through participation in the Vaccines for Children Program. Td/Tdap, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Flu vaccines are offered for uninsured or underinsured adults 19 years or older through participation in the Vaccine for Adults Program.

Our Mennonite community continues to seek vaccines for their children through Public Health. In 2018, 70% of our Immunization Clinic appointments at the Public Health Office were for our Mennonite Community. The majority of our Mennonites are seen in their home through our home clinic visit appointments. In 2018, Public Health Nursing Staff visited the homes of Mennonites 509 times for immunization clinic services. It is easier for these larger families for us to come to them and provide the service. In Yates County, we have a 57% non-vaccination rate of our Mennonite children. Mennonites choose not to vaccinate for personal or philosophical reasons. Public Health Nurses work very hard in educating our Mennonite Community on the importance of
vaccination and how they not only protect their children from very serious diseases but help protect our entire community as a whole. In the Mennonite families who do choose to vaccinate their child, Public Health vaccinates 92% of these families and 8% seek the vaccines at their doctor’s office.

![Clinic Patients & Appointments](image1)

In addition to the chart on the left, in 2018 there were 65 office appointments for immunizations and 14 individuals in our local county jail were vaccinated.

![Total Vaccinations Administered](image2)

As a requirement of grant funds received from the New York State Department of Health, our Immunization Coordinator performs AFIX visits to Yates County Medical Providers who receive VFC vaccine from the NYSDOH. Through the AFIX visits (Assessment, Feedback, Incentive, and Exchange), the Immunization Coordinator assesses 2 year old Immunization rates for the individual practices and assists in developing a
corrective action plan aimed at improving the practice rate with the goal of all children being up to date with the recommended 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 series by age 19 months. This is a great collaboration between the local health department and our medical provider offices. Sharing of resources, strategies on how we can increase our immunization and lead testing rates, keeping in mind our unique population of Mennonites who often refuse these preventive measures, and how we can work together to stay up to date on the latest recommendations and research studies are a few examples of topics discussed at these visits. Our Immunization Coordinator works closely with our school nurses in assisting them with interpretation of school immunization requirements. Our Immunization Coordinator has great collaborating relationships with all medical provider office nurses, keeping them apprised of updated vaccination requirements and all VFC Program updates.

Each fall our Immunization Coordinator visits 29 Mennonite schools to complete the NYS School Immunization Survey. In the fall of 2018, 690 student immunization records were reviewed. Of the 690 students, 43% had a religious exemption, 40% were up to date, and 2% were missing required immunizations for school entry. NYSDOH does not allow personal exemptions for school immunization requirements. For the school survey purposes, the Mennonites choose religious exemption. Our Immunization Coordinator contacts each family identified with a child that is not up to date via phone call and offers a home and/or clinic visit to help get their child caught up with their immunizations. Through these parent contacts, the nurse is able to answer any questions or concerns that may have contributed to a child not being up to date with his or her vaccines. Our Immunization Coordinator speaks with the Mennonite School Superintendent annually to update on school vaccination requirements for entry and required documentation if a parent chooses to not vaccinate their child whether it is a medical or a religious exemption.

Our Immunization Coordinator is a member of the Finger Lakes Area Immunization Coalition, which looks at regional strategies for increasing both pediatric and adult vaccination rates. In May 2018, this coalition successfully held an Immunization Conference in Waterloo, NY with 165 attendees from Yates and surrounding Finger Lakes Area Counties.

Prior to and during Flu Season, Yates County Public Health educated our community on the importance of flu vaccination, prevention techniques and different avenues in which they could receive an influenza vaccination. We also work closely with our medical providers in monitoring influenza activity in our community through the entire flu season.

In 2013, New York State Legislation was passed requiring healthcare and residential facilities and agencies to ensure that all personnel were either vaccinated with the flu vaccine or wore a surgical mask at all times while in areas that patients or residents may be present. Yates County Public Health staff, understanding the risk that they present to vulnerable patients and families, responded by achieving a 100% influenza vaccination rate for staff for four years in a row.
General Communicable Disease Control

Communicable disease control, one of the core functions of Public Health, focuses on early identification of disease, prompt notification of the provider community, investigation of disease sources, and education to community members to prevent spread. With the threat of disease outbreaks, whether by natural spread of emerging pathogens such as H1N1 Flu or by human intent such as bio-terrorism, active surveillance has become an increasingly vital component of the communicable disease program. Active surveillance necessitates a collaborative effort with health department personnel, hospital emergency department staff, school nurses, pharmacists, physicians and other partners. Active surveillance attempts to identify trends in medical system and pharmaceutical usage. This can include reports of increasing numbers of provider visits or higher rates of pain medication or antibiotic prescriptions. Staff also monitor for increases in similar chief complaints of emergency department patients as a strategy to identify clusters or outbreaks of illness quickly.

Passive surveillance whereby the practitioners and laboratories report designated illnesses such as salmonella, giardia, hepatitis and chlamydia to the Public Health office, is conducted throughout the year. Professional staff is on-call 24/7 to respond to, and investigate reports of communicable disease. The chart above illustrates the volume of investigations completed during the calendar year.

In addition to disease investigation work, the Communicable Disease Nurse and Health Educator work to keep health care providers and the public informed of infection control issues, illness prevention measures, and the prevalence of
disease in our community through a variety of venues including blast faxes, newsletters, website, community presentations, and one-on-one education.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases is a responsibility of each county health department in New York State. In lieu of operating an STD clinic, Yates County pays for the diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases through a contract with Finger Lakes Community Health. NYSDOH personnel perform follow-up and contact tracing of STD cases with assistance from Yates County Public Health staff.

Chlamydia is the most frequently reported sexually transmitted disease in the United States. Chlamydia occurs most often in adolescents and young adults who have new or multiple sex partners, and who do not consistently use condoms. In 2018, 56 cases of Chlamydia were reported in the county. Of those, 29% of cases were identified in 15-19 year-olds, and 63% in 20-29 year olds. Sixty-eight percent of cases reported occurred in females. There were six cases of Gonorrhea in 2018. Of these, 4 were females and 2 males.

Yates County Public Health continues to work with the staff at Finger Lakes Community Health and private physician practices to decrease the incidence of STDs, especially targeting education to teens and young adults.

HIV/AIDS Program

Yates County Public Health no longer offers rapid HIV testing. Confidential HIV testing and counseling is available at Penn Yan Community Health or through any primary care provider office. Public Health continues to educate our community regarding the prevention of HIV, the importance of HIV testing, and where testing is available.
**Tuberculosis Control Program**

Targeted testing strategies are used to identify those at greatest risk of Tuberculosis Infection. This includes routine testing of inmates housed at the Yates County Jail and health care workers. In 2018, 180 tuberculin skin tests were placed. Of those, 3 were identified as positive for TB infection. Nine additional LTBI referrals were received from Keuka College and local provider offices. Appropriate antibiotic treatment was offered, to prevent the development of active tuberculosis disease. Individuals who accept treatment are monitored by Public Health for the duration of their preventative treatment. It is critical to identify for clinical symptoms of active TB disease, complications from the treatment itself, and compliance with the treatment regimen. There were no new active TB cases identified in Yates County during 2018.

**Rabies Control Program**

Since the emergence of raccoon Rabies in Yates County in 1991, considerable staff time (including a 24-hour on-call system) has been devoted to investigating rabies-related incidents. Since rabies is a fatal disease it is critical to prevent cases of human rabies and to reduce the spread of disease to domesticated pets. All reports of human or pet exposure to a potentially rabid animal are promptly investigated by the public health staff. Rabies vaccination status of pets is verified, confinements or quarantines are ordered as appropriate, and when indicated, specimens are submitted for testing to the New York State Laboratory at Wadsworth.
When rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is indicated, humans exposed to the rabies virus are assisted in obtaining treatment at the local emergency department. To ensure that there is no barrier to treatment, all costs related to PEP not paid by insurance are covered by Yates County Public Health.

To ensure that cost of vaccine is not a barrier to pet owners keeping their animals protected, rabies clinics are held throughout the county. The vaccine is available at no cost to the pet owner. In 2018, a total of 765 dogs, cats, and ferrets were vaccinated at county sponsored rabies clinics. Six clinics were held at 5 sites throughout the county (Penn Yan, Potter, Italy Benton, and Dundee).

Twenty-one rabies specimens were sent for testing in 2018. Two specimens were positive for rabies, including one raccoon and one owned cat. PEP was authorized for 11 individuals. These exposures resulted from contact with bats, feral cats, and raccoon bites. One newly vaccinated dog was confined for 6 months due to exposure to an opossum, which NYSDOH deemed untestable.
Arthropod-borne Disease Surveillance and Control

Local health departments are responsible for surveillance, investigation and reporting of suspected zoonotic diseases (disease spread by animals to humans). Additionally, the local health department is responsible for increasing public awareness of arthropod-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus, Lyme disease, and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Public Health conducts public education through local media, newsletters, informational displays, the county website and Facebook. In addition to general community education, steps are taken to educate the medical community by ensuring current treatment guidelines are distributed to provider offices.

In 2018, there were 39 Lyme disease investigations. 27 confirmed cases met NYSDOH case definition and 4 cases were probable. Several other reports were investigated, but did not meet criteria. Due to under-reporting and a strict case definition that excludes some testing done at local hospitals, our numbers do not reflect the actual burden of disease. In 2018, 52% of cases were in children under the age of 19, and 32% were in adults over the age of 60.

![Lyme Disease Cases Year](chart)

The Lyme cases noted for 2018 in the chart equate to 27 confirmed cases and 4 probable cases.

Family Health

Maternal Child Health Program

In 2018, our Maternal Child Health (MCH) Program transitioned from a case management program to one time evaluation visits. It was identified through speaking with other community agencies in the county that duplicate services were being offered to pregnant women and families. Public Health determined that our role moving forward would be a connector of services versus providing the service. The one time visits are completed by our MCH nurse who meets with the pregnant woman or new mother and baby to educate and assess what other services in the community she could benefit from. Referrals are then made to agencies identified. Public Health has great relationships with the other agencies providing MCH services who are Care Net, Child & Family Resources, Finger Lakes Community Health and ProAction Head Start. In the fall of 2018, these agencies came to the table with Public Health to develop a multi-agency referral form and community flyer to help educate both providers and community members what services are available for pregnant women and families in the county. The goal is to streamline the
referral process for our provider community in that one referral form will be used for all 5 agencies and the receiving agency will then determine which service the referred patient needs.

All birth abstracts for infants born to mothers residing in Yates County are reviewed. Our MCH Nurse contacts all first born infants of mothers who were breastfeeding at the time of birth. The mother receives a letter in the mail which congratulated them on the birth of their child and explained that a Public Health Nurse would be calling to see how breastfeeding was going. Seventy nine calls were made to first time breastfeeding mothers. Forty eight mothers reported that breastfeeding was going well and declined the need for a home visit. One mother who needed help with breastfeeding received a home visit by our Public Health Nurse, six mothers were no longer breastfeeding and thirty mothers did not return the Public Health Nurse’s call. Of those we were able to contact, 62% were still breastfeeding. An additional seven mothers and infants were visited as a result of other agency referrals or were current patients of the MCH Program referred to us by the birthing hospital. During these home visits the nurse provides education regarding Public Health services, growth and development, lead poisoning, immunizations, breastfeeding, infant safety, infant care, parenting and community resources.

Our MCH nurse is a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC). She offers breastfeeding supportive services both in the home and the community setting. During 2018, Public Health received five referrals for CLC services and all five mothers were visited by our MCH Nurse. Our CLC also does a lot of phone triage with mothers who have questions about breastfeeding or are having difficulty with it. Public Health continued to support and help staff the Yates Baby Café which meets at the Penn Yan Library. Yates Baby Café is open on the first and third Thursdays each month and is staffed with two CLC’s. Yates Baby Café is a free resource for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers to get support from CLC’s and to share experiences with other moms. No appointment is needed. The Yates Baby Café environment offers refreshments, comfortable seating, and open-forum discussion. The Baby Café offers play areas for accompanying toddlers as well.

Public Health continues to be a member of the Finger Lakes Breastfeeding Partnership. Throughout 2018, the partnership made great strides in their work plan and goals. Their Facebook page posts reached over 15,000 people with over 800 likes. They continue to educate and promote employers and other local business organizations to create environments supportive of lactating mothers using model practices. Also through the partnership, 74 health care practices were educated about the importance of being breastfeeding friendly and 4 practices became certified breastfeeding friendly practices. Partnership members also outreach to both home and center based daycares. In 2018 13 center based and 46 home daycares became breastfeeding certified in the region.
Dental Health Education

The most common childhood disease in America is tooth decay, often called the “Silent Epidemic”. Poor oral health ranging from dental caries to oral cancers cause pain and disability for millions of Americans. The CDC also emphasizes that a growing body of evidence exists linking oral disease to other severe chronic disease including diabetes, heart disease and stroke. It is also shown to be linked with premature births and low birth weight. Thus, YCPH embeds dental health education in several of its other programs as well as devoting special attention to educating young children through programs offered at local preschools and day cares. YCPH has also embraced and promoted the Fluoride Varnish Program which offers early screening and protection of the primary dentition in the medical practice setting. All family medical practices have received information about this program through letters of introduction and encouraged to participate in fluoride varnish applications for babies, toddlers, and preschool children. To date, two medical practices have been trained in this concept, one practice has received the program information and procedures, and another has been approached for further discussion. Efforts will continue to encourage the establishment of this successful preventative practice in medical homes in Yates County.

Each year during February, the National Children’s Dental Health Month observance is celebrated by the Public Health Educator visiting classrooms at Rainbow Junction to teach children how to practice good dental health and adopt healthy habits that should last a lifetime. PreK classes, toddler classes, and infant rooms are visited with information and toothbrushes distributed for all.
Chronic Disease Prevention

National Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP)

In January 2018, Yates County Public Health partnered with Finger Lakes Health and the Yates Community Center to offer a Diabetes Prevention Program in Yates County. The goal of the program is to prevent Type 2 Diabetes through a year-long intensive lifestyle change program. This was made possible through a grant from the Greater Rochester Health Foundation. The Yates Community Center provided an accommodating space for the 6 month core weekly sessions and 6 month post-core monthly sessions. Classes were facilitated by a registered dietician from Finger Lakes Health. Participants in the program were offered a free 6 month gym membership at the Yates Community Center, as well as athletic shoes if needed.

The interest was overwhelming with 47 individuals seeking information and 23 starting the program. Twenty gym memberships were provided, as well as vouchers for 2 pairs of athletic shoes. Seventy percent of the participants attended 8 or more classes and the group lost a total of 222 pounds.

Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program (BPSMP)

Yates County Public Health partnered with Penn Yan Community Health, YMCA of Greater Rochester and the Yates Community Center to provide a BPSMP. Research has shown that blood pressure self-monitoring improves adherence & provides for better health outcomes for hypertensive patients.

Healthy Heart Ambassadors were trained to meet with individuals that have been told that they have hypertension at different sites in the county. Participants were given a free digital blood pressure monitor and the tools to track
their blood pressure in their home. Monthly nutritional seminars were also provided at the county office building for both participants and the public. Six individuals participated in the program.

**Blood Pressure Loaner Program**

Through funding from the NYS Million Hearts Collaborative, Yates County Public Health began working with area physician offices to implement a Blood Pressure Loaner Program. Research shows that self-measured blood pressure improves blood pressure control when a patient/provider feedback loop is used to provide personalized support and advice based on the patient’s data.

This initiative began in late 2018 with four provider offices participating. A total of 16 digital blood pressure machines and the paperwork/forms to implement the program were provided. The effectiveness of the program will be evaluated throughout 2019.

![Phyllis Enos, LPN from Pre-Emption Family Medicine](image1.png)

Pictured: Phyllis Enos, LPN from Pre-Emption Family Medicine. She displays one of the electronic blood pressure monitors that can be loaned to patients that qualify for the Blood Pressure Monitor Loaner Program.

**Regional and Local Community Health Improvement Efforts**

Yates County Public Health continued to work with partners to address the identified priorities of Obesity and Hypertension through the local coalition known as Choose Health Yates and four regional workgroups; Farm to Cafeteria, Worksite Wellness, Breastfeeding and Hypertension. The S2AY Rural Health Network coordinates the regional groups and also has taken the lead in securing additional grant funds to support efforts. The Worksite Wellness group also developed a tool kit for distribution to employers. The intent of the tool kit is to facilitate healthier employees through changes such as adoption of a healthy meeting policy or increasing healthy choices in vending machines. Providing employers with options for services offered to their employees has been an ongoing effort. More outreach to area employers continues.

Partnering with the Common Ground Health; the Hypertension Committee has been successful in expanding a hypertension registry previously available to Monroe County physicians only. Through the registry, provider practices receive biannual data showing the prevalence of uncontrolled hypertension for their patients and a comparison of their practice to others in the region. The local health department is then able to work with practices to explore practice level change as well as evaluate strategies to improve overall population
hypertension control. Nationally it is estimated that 30% of Americans 18 and older have hypertension. For Yates County this equates to 5,936 patients. Currently 4543 patients from Yates County are included in the registry. The control rate for these patients at mid-year was 82%. The goal of this registry project is to move the overall Finger Lakes Control rate from the current 79% to 85% by the year 2020.

NYS Million Hearts Collaborative

Through June 2018, YCPH continued its participation in the NYS Million Hearts Collaborative aimed to improve hypertension (HTN) and diabetes (DM) control, and continues to partner with Penn Yan Community Health (PYCH) in the Health Systems Learning Collaborative (HSLC). Through the HSLC, YCPH actively participated in monthly action period calls with the NYS DOH, Health Center Network New York (HCNNY) and PYCH, attended a face to face meeting with NYS collaborative members, and conducted face to face meetings at the PYCH office every 2 months to discuss and assist with quality improvement/systems level change measures that could be implemented in the practice to improve HTN and DM control, and to efficiently identify patients with undiagnosed HTN, prediabetes and those at risk for DM and work in collaboration with this practice to offer, or refer to, evidence-based diabetes prevention and chronic disease self-management programs. PYCH continued to lead the collaborative in success with decreasing their undiagnosed HTN rates and increasing their follow-up appointment rates. YCPH has helped provide tools in guiding PYCH in the successful incorporation of a CDC-recognized Prediabetes Screening Tool, into their electronic health records. This will be utilized in their daily routine with patients, thus increasing identification of those at risk for diabetes.

Worksite Wellness Committee/Program

Through 2018, Yates County Public Health continues to work alongside its fellow county departments to foster interdepartmental inclusion and collaboration to bring about our mission objectives: expanding knowledge & building health, fitness and morale, for a strong and unified workforce. In 2018, the Yates County Worksite Wellness Committee met every other month, to ensure the momentum for a successful employee wellness program continued, for the benefit of Yates County employees and employees of our in-house cooperating agencies (ProAction, CCE, and Soil & Water). This collaboration with not only county departments, but key community partners/stakeholders such as Finger Lakes Health and the Yates Community Center, and from support of our insurance carrier (Excellus) and the CSEA, helps the program move forward, as the employee wellness committee was able to again, bring valuable health programs to county employees and the public, at no cost. Throughout 2018, Yates County’s Employee Wellness Program has again accomplished work towards better wellness and illness prevention, which included successful Lunch and Learn sessions such as “Mammography and Bone Density Testing: Important to Every Woman’s Health”, given by our partners from Finger Lakes Health, “Social Security Planning”, and “Tick Bite Prevention and Lyme Disease in Yates County”, presented by Public Health’s own Jennifer Green, which drew a crowd of 47 to our county auditorium in June. Through Public Health’s partnership with the YMCA, a rotating series of nutrition seminars were offered to
county employees and the public as Lunch and Learn sessions, and 6 total seminars were conducted monthly from January – June. Since data from the initial Yates County Employee Wellness Survey done in April of 2016 indicated support for tobacco cessation, ongoing efforts continued through 2018 towards the goal of a tobacco/vaping-free county campus, and after a public hearing which included many members of the public and staff from various agencies, the Yates County Local Law 1-18 was passed in May of 2018 (to go into effect 1/1/19). More efforts to support a smooth transition for a tobacco/vaping free county campus for employees and the public were organized and supported by the Worksite Wellness Committee and carried out by its members from the Personnel and Public Health Departments.

The Employee Benefits Fair was held in November and 70 employees attended. Biometric screenings were also hosted in November, where 30 employees took advantage of an on-site health evaluation including a comprehensive 36 panel blood screening, at no out-of-pocket cost or insurance penalty. Once again, through our partnership with the Yates Community Center, a county group rate was offered, and 25 people took advantage of a discounted 6 month gym membership.
Environmental Health

Injury Prevention

The health and safety of residents is a primary concern to YCPH staff. Programs and initiatives are planned around the special needs of our population. Injuries of various types are one of the leading causes of ED visits at our local hospital. Alerted to this information from Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital, YCPH reaches out into the community to educate residents and visitors about safety for both children and adults. Prevention is key to reducing the kinds of injuries that occur.

Efforts in 2018 to raise community awareness and reduce injuries included:
- Purchase of print space in the special Summer issue of the Chronicle Express newspaper
- Numerous Facebook posts
- Newspaper articles, public service announcements, press releases, and advertisements
- Safety presentations to children’s groups at summer recreation programs and day care centers.
- Promotion of events/prevention programs including the Yates County Sheriff’s Office Drug Take Back Days, Office for the Aging’s Matter of Balance and Bone Builders classes
- 5 Narcan trainings were held in 2018 for our local college, our two local school districts and a local medical provider office in which 36 individuals were trained.
- Provision of Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury information leadership for area youth football, baseball and lacrosse teams
- Partnering with Keuka College Occupational Therapy Department students and faculty to provide community education through WFLR’s Open Mic show and presentations to area service groups. This collaboration also included the Manor Crest Foundation outreach to both Clinton Crest Manor and Penn Yan Manor Nursing Home events.
- Work with 15 area businesses during Fall Prevention Week to highlight products that can reduce the risk of falls, especially for the elderly.
- Presentations to residents of St. Marks Terrace and at the OFA November Harvest Dinner regarding fall injury prevention
- Work with the Yates County Sheriff’s Office to offer child passenger seat information and safety checks.

Fall Prevention activities were included in a collaboration with the Manor Crest Foundation in September 2018. The data from Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital Emergency Department has indicated a strong need to educate members of the Yates community on fall prevention activities due to the high rates of ED visits with the major complaint being a fall. The data indicates 221 individuals visited the ED in 2017 and as of late summer 2018, there were 131 patients who went to the ED with a chief complaint of a fall injury.
Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Young children may be exposed to lead poisoning when they put paint, soil, dust, certain toys, or other materials containing lead into their mouths. All children need to be tested for blood lead levels at one and two years of age per NYS Public Health Law.

These younger children face greater risk since they often put objects in their mouths and their bodies absorb lead more easily than adults.

All children with lead levels above 10mcg/dl are case managed by the Lead Program Case Manager. Re-testing usually occurs minimally every three-four months until test results show a blood lead level result under 10mcg/dl or two blood lead levels below 15mcg/dl for at least six consecutive months.

- Cases with blood lead levels of 10-14mcg/dl receive a letter and educational materials. A home visit is made if the family needs further lead poisoning prevention counseling.

- Cases with blood lead levels of 15mcg/dl or greater are visited by the Lead Program Case Manager to assess risks and provide one-on-one counseling, provide lead prevention education, and educate the parent on when the child’s next lead test is due. A home visit is also made by a New York State Environmental Lead Investigator. The investigators provide environmental lead testing and assist families with education on abatement procedures.

A total of 439 blood lead tests were performed on Yates County children in 2018. Some of these children have had multiple tests due to lead elevations. Of these lead tests, 72% were done by the child’s primary care provider and the rest (123) were completed by Public Health Staff.
In 2018, six children were enrolled in case management for blood levels between 10-14mcg/dl and one child in case management for a lead level of 15mcg/dl or greater.

Exposure to lead can cause problems with a child’s growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Yates County Public Health (YCPH) staff work with our Yates County Medical Providers to assure that all parents are informed of the need to prevent exposure of their children to sources of lead, and to have their children tested at both ages of one year and again at two years. In 2018, through provider detailing visits and lead poisoning prevention promotion, the Lead Case Manager provided each pediatric provider office in Yates County, with a comparison of their lead testing rates, compared to the county rate, for the testing of both one and two year-olds who reside in Yates County. Medical staff were educated on strategies to increase their lead testing rates and Point of Care (POC) Testing (on-site testing) using a Lead Care II Analyzer was promoted.

**Blood Lead Testing for Yates County Birth Cohort Year 2015.**
In 2015, there were 318 births in Yates County. Of those, 30 children have moved out of the county or passed away after birth. The chart below illustrates Yates County Lead Testing rates for our one and two year olds. Having a fairly large Mennonite population that often do not seek preventive care including having their children tested for lead poisoning affects the overall lead testing rates for our county.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Children tested at 1 year</th>
<th>148</th>
<th>52%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children tested at 2 years</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children tested at 1 &amp; 2 years</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children with at least one lead test by 35 months</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of children tested at 1 year (less Mennonites with no lead test)</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of children tested at 2 years (less Mennonites with no lead test)</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of children tested at 1 &amp; 2 years (less Mennonites with no lead test)</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of children with at least one lead test by 35 months (less Mennonites with no lead test)</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As you can see in the chart above, our lead testing rates are 10-20% higher when the Mennonite children with no history of a lead test are taken out of the equation. In 2015, there were 136 Mennonite births and 56% of those children have no history of a lead test. Of those children with no lead test, 85% have no history of immunizations either. Our Mennonite community is educated by our Lead Program Case Manager and Public Health Nurses through immunization home clinic visits and Maternal Child Health visits about the risk of lead poisoning, especially for the families who live in older homes. Mennonites often renovate these older homes which increases the risk of the child to be exposed to lead paint and dust if preventative measures are not taken by the parent.

The Lead Program Case Manager and Health Educator are members of The Finger Lakes Coalition to Stop Lead Poisoning. The coalition was established to increase awareness, and promote the prevention and early detection of lead poisoning in our communities. Through the work of the coalition, they developed an initiative to send letters to parents of children who have a lead test result of 5-9mcg/dl. This lead test result is a level of concern and the goal is to not have the lead level increase any further. Lead Poisoning Prevention (LPP) Educational information is included in the letter for the parent to refer to and the recommendation of a retest in 3-6 months. Public Health tracks the retesting rates of children with blood levels between 5-9mcg/dl. To date, all except 4 repeat lead test results were lower than their initial test.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of children with an initial lead level of 5-9.9mcg/dl</th>
<th>% of children who had a repeat lead test within 6 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Data pending</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2018, YCPH utilized various outreach efforts to disseminate in-person, printed and electronic information to the public. YCPH continued its collaborative efforts with Yates County’s Hardware/Paint/Building Supply businesses, and with Code Enforcement Officials, in providing Lead Poisoning Prevention information/materials to renovators and to the public, and provided updated notices throughout the year, of free lead trainings sponsored by the Monroe County Department of Health and given by Cornell University. The YCPH Lead Program continues to strive to understand the different cultures and ethnic groups that reside in Yates County to learn the best approaches to take when providing important health information. The lead program has identified the Mennonite community as a high risk population for lead poisoning, and a targeted survey was developed and presented to members of the community to gain insight as to their basic knowledge of lead poisoning, and their views on what they feel is important, and what they feel are barriers to good health. Input to date has been both not surprising, and insightful.

**RRP (Renovation, Repair, and Painting):** In October, the YCPH Lead Program hosted its first ever EPA RRP-Initial 8 hour course for area contractors and landlords, made possible through grant funding obtained by Cornell University in an effort to bring more RRP trainings to more rural areas of NYS. The 8-seat capacity was filled for this invaluable workshop, and the collaboration between Cornell University and YCPH proved a success, as all 8 participants, including the YCPH lead nurse, passed the exam and became RRP – Certified. This Lead
Renovator Training is required for any workers that disturb more than 6 square feet of a painted surface in a pre-1978 home or child-occupied facility, and helps ensure primary prevention practices to avoid exposures to lead in the first place. Prevention is key.

Attention: contractors/employees, Landlords, Property Owners/Managers

Lead Renovator Training Opportunity in Yates County
Earn your EPA RRP Initial Certification FREE!
The Lead Renovation program is oriented toward homeowners and businesses as well as landlords and employees, or those who would like to use the certification to obtain work at this construction activity. Some renovations are defined to cause by relatively covering up 8 square feet of an old lead-based paint. EPA RRP – Initial, 8 hour class – Yates County Auditorium

EPA RRP – Initial, 8 hour class – Yates County Auditorium

Radon Education and Testing.
Through a grant received by the S2AY Rural Health Network, Yates County has partnered in community education efforts and distribution of Radon Gas test kits at no cost to all Yates residents. During 2018 246 kits were provided, tested, and returned at no cost to Yates County residents. Occupants of residences that tested high for Radon Gas were provided with information regarding mitigation resources for their consideration.
On March 20, 2018, area contractors attended a Radon Gas & Lead Poisoning Prevention workshop held in Bath.
Yates County Public Health Department 2018 Annual Report

In 1921 legislation was enacted that empowered New York State counties to create county health districts. The purpose of a county health district was to consolidate local authority for the oversight of public health work at the county level rather than having public health activities dispersed to the constituent county cities, towns and villages. Counties were not required to create such health districts and as time passed it became evident that that many rural counties (including Yates) that had not formed a county health district would face increasing logistical and financial challenges that coincided with expanding public health needs and requirements. County health departments that operate in counties without county health districts are known as “partial services” county health departments.

As a matter of policy, not law; the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) addressed the need to preserve a baseline of public health in partial services counties by creating District Offices. Currently nine (9) district offices operate in New York State, and in Yates County it is the NYSDOH Geneva District Office (GDO) that provides core environmental health programs and services to County residents and visitors. In partnership with Yates County Public Health (YCPH) and other state and local agencies, the GDO enforces environmental health regulations and oversees a variety of programs that are designed to protect public health and safety. The attached pdf document provides a summary of the GDO’s duties and responsibilities and of the services that are provided to Yates and to Ontario and Wayne – the other two counties that are located within the GDO’s jurisdiction.

Highlights of the GDO’s activities in Yates County during the 2018 calendar year included the following:

- Conducted 100 inspections at the County’s approximately 114 food service operations.
- Conducted 2 inspections at the County’s 2 migrant farmworker housing facilities.
- Conducted 1 inspection at the County’s 3 tanning facilities.
- Conducted 13 student aide compliance visits to tobacco retailers to ensure compliance with the Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act (ATUPA).
- Work with YCPH to conduct lead based paint risk assessments at 1 private Yates County residence in response to referrals of children with elevated blood lead levels as necessary.
- Investigated 4 complaints alleging sanitary code violations at food service establishments and a mobile home park.
- Issued 3 formal enforcement actions (Administrative Tribunal Notice of Hearings) to address violations of the NYS Sanitary Code at regulated facilities.
- Conducted 6 sanitary surveys (enhanced inspections) at community water systems and 31 sanitary surveys at regulated facilities with onsite water supplies.
- Responded to reports of harmful algal blooms (HABs) on Keuka, Canandaigua, and Seneca Lakes. The Geneva District Office collaborated with Yates County Public Health on bloom avoidance messaging at impacted venues.

From January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018 the Geneva District Office issued no Administrative Tribunal Notices of Hearing (enforcement actions) to the owners of tobacco retail outlets citing the illegal sale of tobacco products to individuals under eighteen years of age (2016 = 0; 2017 = 0; 2018 = 0).

From January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018 the Geneva District Office cited no owner of a tobacco retail outlet for the illegal sale of tobacco products to an individual under eighteen years of age for the second time within the above three-year period.

From January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018 the Geneva District Office issued a total of four (4) formal enforcement actions (Administrative Tribunal Notice of Hearing) to the operators of four (4) public water supplies for failure to submit monthly water system operation reports and water sample results within required timeframes (2016 = 3; 2017 = 0; 2018 = 1).

During the reporting period, no trends or patterns were identified in any aspect of the District’s delivery of its core environmental health programs and services including enforcement and compliance.

Prepared by

Patrick Toye
District Director
NYSDOH – Geneva District Office
February 21, 2019
Health Education and Community Involvement

All Public Health staff represent the Department in their everyday work in the community, identifying and conveying the message of the Yates County Public Health Mission and Vision as it is stated. A prime example of modeling preventative behavior is the 100% compliance with the policy that all staff who can get vaccinated, do receive the annual flu shot each year. Herd immunity does offer the best protection within a community during influenza season and this message is important to model for community members.

Involvement in the community through participation on advisory boards and coalitions is an important aspect of giving back to the community as well as having the ability to inform policy makers. Staff participation continued with Yates Substance Abuse Coalition, Community Services Sub-Committees, Finger Lakes Community Advisory Committee, Long Term Care Council, and many others. New partnerships were formed by participation with groups such Yates County Suicide Coalition and the Penn Yan Municipal Planning Board.

Educational efforts that provide timely and relevant health and safety messages are shared through a variety of means, including mailings, displays, in-person conversations and presentations, department website postings, the YCPH Facebook page, newspaper articles/press releases/letters to the editor and radio public service announcements and advertisements. Media partners include: The Chronicle Express, The Observer, WFLR radio, WYLF radio, WQKA radio, the Finger Lakes Times, the Daily Messenger, the Lake to Lake Bulletin, Yates Office for the Aging newsletter, local public libraries, tabling events, bulletin board displays, and the Mennonite mailer called “The Flame”. Yates County’s new website has allowed a better/stronger use of this medium to inform our public and stakeholders with real time health information and alerts.

2018 was a busy year with health and safety topics that spanned many program areas. Harmful Algal Blooms, Opioid use, Radon Gas information and distribution of test kits, and the passage of Local Law #1-2018 prohibiting use of tobacco and vaping products on County-owned property were frequent examples of topics that required continued attention.

Yates County Public Health staff members also attend community gatherings and fairs. Some of these venues included:

- Dundee Fairy Tale Festival
- ARC of Yates summer event
- Community Baby Shower
- Yates County Employee Health Fair
- Conservation Field Day
- Manor Crest Foundation Fall events
- Information sharing at area food pantries
- Weekly Baby Cafe
- Yates Office for the Aging summer and fall senior events
In addition to annual activities held throughout the year, the Educator was involved in 2018 with information gathering for the Accreditation process that has spanned 5 previous years of work projects.

Also, as part of the partnership with the Finger Lakes Health System, Yates County Public Health participates in the 3 year reporting cycle for the Community Health Assessment and Comprehensive Plan. This reporting process for the New York State Department of Health has included these activities; the distribution of electronic and paper Community Health Assessment surveys and stakeholder Focus Group meetings held throughout the fall of 2018. After processing all the information gathered, stakeholders will meet again in the spring of 2019 to set the health & safety priorities for the upcoming 3 years for their organizations’ work plans.

The 3rd Thursday of every November is the “Great American Smokeout”. YCPH observes this date annually by displaying a banner across Main Street in Penn Yan to highlight the New York State Smokers’ Quitline, which has been a successful resource for New Yorkers who want to quit using tobacco. In 2018 this banner was displayed for a 2 week period.
Emergency Preparedness and Response

Yates County Public Health (YCPH) continues to plan for potential biological, chemical, or radiological terrorist events as well as naturally occurring large-scale communicable disease outbreaks or natural disasters.

The work of the YCPH Emergency Preparedness and Response is overseen by the Health-related Emergency Operations Planning (HEOP) Task Force composed of representatives from many partner community organizations and agencies. YCPH Emergency Preparedness Core Team regularly assists in decision making and action taking relative to Emergency Planning and Response.

The YCPH Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) Plan is the written plan used as the guide to preparedness and response activities. This entire plan and all its attachments are reviewed and revised with input from YCPH staff, local response partners and regional and state representatives every two years, with the next update slated to occur in 2019.

Activities in 2018 included:

- Continued to maintain and encourage Point of Dispensing (POD) Plans with area organizations. Work continues to complete several plans and maintain existing plans.
- Participated in regional and local exercise educational programs and drills.
- Initiated required notification drills for the YCPH Emergency Response Team members and the Yates County Strategic National Stockpile Planning and Staging Site Leads through the NYSDOH Health Commerce System (HCS) Intergrated Health Alerting Network System (IHANS). Participated in NYSDOH initiated drills throughout the year.
- Conducted a full scale Point of Dispensing exercise in April 2018.
- Provided preparedness education to school aged children at area Recreational Programs within the county. YCPH Emergency Preparedness information continues to be created and distributed throughout the department, on YCPH Facebook and on the YCPH website.
- Continued work to maintain volunteers in the Yates County Public Health Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).
- Participated with national, state, regional and local agencies on networking and training programs maintaining awareness of issues related to emergencies and appropriate action. Provided applicable education and training to all YCPH staff to maintain appropriate readiness to emergency response.

Yates County Public Health Emergency Planning continues to work in liaison with and to participate in planning with local health care workers, community agencies and emergency providers, as well as regional and state networks. We also analyze and interpret local, regional and state public health-based data. All required national, state and local directives relative to emergency preparedness and response are completed and reported as applicable.
Emergency Medical Services Coordination

During 2018 the EMS Coordinator was a shared position between Public Health and Emergency Management. The activities vary from EMS Coordination, Injury Prevention, Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Response. Those activities are described in other parts of the Public Health and the Emergency Management Annual Reports.

Training

The Yates County Basic Life Support (BLS) Training Center provided specialized training which included Blood borne Pathogens, CPR, AED, and Certified First Responder and Emergency Medical Technician to EMS providers and community residents in the county. NIMs 100, 700 and 200 were offered throughout the year in order to continue compliance in ambulance corps, fire departments, and local town and village officials. The EMT Original Classes were taught by instructors Joseph Axtell and Jason Johnson, starting in October 2018. The classes are anticipated to conclude in late March 2019 with the NYS practical and written exams administered. A total of 9 students enrolled in the EMT Original class series.

Special Children’s Services

Children with Special Health Care Needs

Families with children birth to 21 years of age, who have or are suspected of having a serious or chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional condition which will require health or related services of a type or amount beyond that required by a typical child are eligible for the Children with Special Health Care Needs Program (CShCN). Staff assist families by making referrals to available resources that can assist the families in meeting the needs of their child.

In 2018, one family was provided with assistance to receive Speech therapy services for their school age child. Throughout the year, at the time of CPSE (Committee Preschool for Special Education) parents were given a packet of information including information such as activities for young children in the area, Yates County Transit information, food pantries, day cares, information regarding annual review and parent rights as well as how to prepare for their child’s meeting, area dentists and insurance they accept, a copy of the child’s immunization record with vaccines due prior to kindergarten noted.

Child Find

Child Find is a state-funded program to track infants 0-3 years of age who are at high risk for physical or developmental disabilities. The main focus of Child Find is to ensure children have a health care provider, have
health insurance, are receiving ongoing developmental screening from their primary health care provider, and are referred to Early Intervention for a full evaluation if needed. During 2018, there was one child enrolled in Child Find. In addition, all new mothers received a congratulatory letter and packet of information through our Maternal Child Health Program. These packets include information regarding child development and accessing Special Children’s Services (i.e. Child Find, Early Intervention, and PreSchool Services).

Early Intervention Program and Preschool Special Education Program

Yates County Public Health administers the Early Intervention Program (EI) for children ages 0-3 with developmental delays. Eligibility is determined, per New York State Department of Health regulations through a multidisciplinary evaluation. Children who show significant delay in cognitive, motor, communication, social/emotional or self-help skills may receive services appropriate to remediate these delays at no cost to the family. Services are to be provided in the setting which is appropriate for the individual child. This includes home, community or center-based settings. Services available through these programs include Special Education, Speech, Physical and Occupational Therapies, Counseling, Respite, Nursing, Transportation and Service Coordination.

In 2018, 40 new children were referred to the EI Program. Of these, 11 had a multidisciplinary evaluation and were found to be ineligible to receive services, 7 either refused an evaluation or did not respond to contact attempts made. The remaining 22 children were found eligible for services and an IFSP was developed.

Preschool Special Education Program

Preschool special education services are provided to children ages 3-5 years who meet eligibility criteria set by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). The Committee on Preschool Special Education in the child’s home school district develops and approves an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) identifying service type,
frequency and environment. Inclusion of children with special needs in natural settings such as home, day care, preschool or other community settings rather than in segregated, special education classrooms is encouraged. YCPH contracts with a host of agencies and independent providers for the provision of evaluations and services for this program. Services, including transportation when necessary, are provided at no cost to the family. Medicaid qualifying expenses are billed to Medicaid, however commercial insurance cannot be billed. The county is reimbursed through NYSED at a rate of 59% of expenses.

Despite the trend of a smaller case load of children qualifying for services in the county, the availability of services remains of great concern. The provider shortage reported in New York State Counties affects both the Early Intervention and PreSchool Program. In 2018, the Regional Early Childhood Coalition (RECC) performed a focused audit on provider shortage by county. It was found that the S2AY network counties all have waitlists for EI with the exception of Cayuga and Chemung Counties. The Yates County waitlist in 2018 includes children waiting for Occupational (OT), Physical (PT) and Speech (ST) therapy services. During the period from March 2018 to June 2018 there were up to 7 and 8 children at any given time on the waitlist for services with a caseload of only 32 children. Physical therapy seems to be especially challenging for our county and has led to one family meeting with the therapist at the agency location in Ontario County.
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

In 2018, Yates County Public Health continued using a Performance Management System based on the Turning Point Performance Management Framework. Performance management and quality improvement tools are promoted and supported as an opportunity to increase the effectiveness of public health programs. Staff reported their achievement toward these goals, and findings were presented to the Performance Management Quality Improvement (PMQI) Committee quarterly. By reviewing these measures, quality improvement measures can be identified.

2018 Quality Improvement Activities

Each year a QI Activity Schedule is developed. This schedule is developed by the Quality Improvement Coordinator and members of the PMQI Committee. Program audits, agency complaints and incidents, satisfaction surveys, monthly and annual reports, quarterly reports and vouchers are reviewed. The Strategic Plan and CHIP are also reviewed to ensure completion of goals and objectives.

Twenty five audits were completed and a total of 240 records were reviewed. No trends were identified. Results of all audits are shared with staff, the PMQI committee, Professional Advisory Committee and Human Service Committee of the Legislature. Opportunities for improvement are identified through these audits.

Agency Complaints and Incidents

There were 2 agency complaints and 0 incidents in 2018. All were investigated and resolved.

Satisfaction Surveys

Satisfaction surveys are distributed in all program areas. Sixty surveys were returned with a 58% average return rate from all program areas. 96% of those responding indicated overall satisfaction (Strongly agree or agree).

Regional Performance Management Quality Improvement Committee

A Regional Performance Management Quality Improvement Committee was established in March of 2016 and continues to meet quarterly. The committee consists of 8 surrounding counties in the S2AY Rural Health Network. The goals of this committee are to provide oversight of the regional workgroups, address regional QI projects, set regional performance measures, improve the QI culture in each county and address cultural/linguistic and health equity needs of the participating counties.

Regional Hypertension Committee

In December 2017, a Regional Hypertension Committee was established to focus on data surrounding hypertension and to identify opportunities to improve hypertension rates in our eight county region. The initial
meetings were utilized to identify stakeholders that can assist in improving hypertension rates. Meetings in 2018 focused on identifying Performance Measures for participating counties and agencies.

Accreditation Efforts
Yates County Public Health continued preparing for Accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). According to PHAB, “the accreditation process seeks to advance quality and performance within public health departments. Accreditation standards define the expectations for all public health departments that seek to become accredited. National public health department accreditation has been developed because of the desire to improve service, value, and accountability to stakeholders.”

Yates County Public Health began the Accreditation process in 2013. Yates County Public Health and five surrounding counties in the S2AY Rural Health Network worked jointly on a Multijurisdictional Application (MJD). A Statement of Intent (SOI) was submitted to PHAB on July 2, 2015 and a formal application was submitted in June of 2016. Final submission of all documents were uploaded to PHAB in May of 2017. Over 1,500 documents were submitted to PHAB as part of the MJD application.

On August 2 & 3, 2018, a PHAB site visit was completed in Yates County and the surrounding counties involved in the Multijurisdictional Applications. After review of the submitted documentation and the site visit, it was determined that an Action Plan would need to be submitted for 5 areas that were slightly demonstrated. After acceptance of the Action Plan (anticipated March 2019), Yates County Public Health will have 1 year to implement the actions outlined in the Action Plan. A determination will then be made by PHAB regarding full accreditation.
2018 FINANCIAL REPORT:

The fiscal analysis that follows includes the operational budget of the Public Health Department. Within the Public Health budget are included programs for Emergency Preparedness, Chronic Disease, Lead Poisoning Prevention, Children with Special Health Care Needs, Early Intervention, Injury Prevention, Family Health, Emergency Medical Services and Communicable Disease.

Public Health Expenditures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Services</td>
<td>687,776.00</td>
<td>606,136.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractual</td>
<td>387,178.55</td>
<td>329,890.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>43,756.73</td>
<td>33,847.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabies Control</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,083.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Intervention</td>
<td>105,329.50</td>
<td>117,917.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PreSchool</td>
<td>1,170,000</td>
<td>911,812.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2,404,040.78</td>
<td>2,009,688.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Some budgeted expenses tied to grants which have an end date beyond December 31st become 2019 expenses.

Public Health Revenues:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PH Fees</td>
<td>35,169.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>318,201.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH State Aid</td>
<td>662,146.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Intervention</td>
<td>71,266.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PreSchool</td>
<td>547,037.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1,633,820.90</td>
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</tbody>
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