

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Public health is a difficult field to succinctly describe with any clarity. Ask any number of practitioners or lay persons to define public health and you will hear that many different versions. The practice of public health intersects with all aspects of our lives including roles in environmental regulation, health care access, disaster preparedness, disease prevention, advocacy, and health policy development.

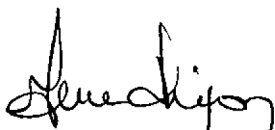
Fundamentally though, the mission of public health is to prevent, promote and protect the health of the entire community; a heady responsibility that we take very seriously.

Public health's foundation in meeting this charge lies with epidemiology; understanding disease and social trend data and interpreting, developing and advocating for appropriate intervention strategies. A close look at our community reveals that educational attainment, income level, and race are significant predictors and are inexorably tied to individual and community health status. At Summit County Public Health we are committed to sharing this information and confronting these social disparities and health inequities.

We are very fortunate in Summit County to have so many willing partners and dedicated entities share this challenge. In 2012, we continued to strengthen relationships with our wealth of local academic institutions, social service agencies, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations and for-profit sectors. Our leveraged capacity and shared inspiration is generating amazing ideas and actions.

After nearly two years of searching, we are very excited and proud to have purchased a new flagship location for the health district. Fairway Center, located at 1867 West Market Street, Akron will serve as our principle office building into the future. We will continue to maintain several satellite locations to assure continued access to our service throughout the county. We anticipate that planning and construction activities will continue through most of 2013 on our new location.

In 2012, Summit County Public Health adopted five strategic goals: Address Social Inequities, Improve Health, Attain National Accreditation, Strengthen Organization Capacity, and Transition to Care Coordination. Looking forward to 2013, these goals will remain overriding themes in the agency's continuing transformation. Despite significant federal and state challenges, our fiscal standing remains sound as detailed in this report. For further information on our agency, please visit www.scphoh.org.



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Health Commissioner



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President, Board of Health

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Licensing Council



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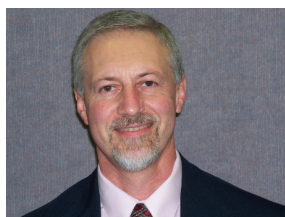
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Dr. Jay Williamson
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Not pictured:

Akron Board of Health Representative

Mission Statement

The mission of Summit County Public Health is to protect and advance the health of the entire community through its policies, programs and activities that protect the safety, health and well-being of the people in Summit County. Through its policies, programs and activities, the Health District endeavors to create a healthful environment and ensure the accessibility of health services to all.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Prevent

Public Health Prevention In Action ...

Public health is a crucial partner in health care and shares the same basic goals as the rest of the health care system. These goals include preventing disease, disability, and injury and reducing premature death. Public health addresses the needs of populations as a whole instead of those of individuals; as such, one of the core functions of public health is disease prevention. For example, a physician might provide one-on-one counseling and/or pharmaceutical aids to help individuals quit smoking. By contrast, a public health professional might work with local partners to build the community's capacity to provide ongoing smoking cessation classes to large groups of smokers, launch a social marketing campaign encouraging youth not to smoke and/or work with businesses to develop policies for a smoke-free work environment. Strategies such as these are meant to complement the efforts of clinical medicine. Summit County Public Health also administers disease prevention and health promotion programs that support the health of the community, including Vaccines for Children; Help Me Grow and Home Visitation early intervention services; Women, Infants & Children (WIC) nutrition assistance services; Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) case management services; Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention regional screening project; Child and Family Health Services, HIV Prevention Regional Program, and Drug & Alcohol Addiction counseling services.

Environmental Health is often thought of as the code enforcement arm of public health. However, codes are first a tool or guide to help citizens and businesses understand how to prevent injuries and illness associated with human activity and the natural environment. In order to prevent injury and disease, environmental health programs rely on rules and standards used to guide responsible management of human and environmental systems such as food safety, public swimming pools, household wastewater and well water, air pollutant emissions, and monitoring the spread of communicable disease. For example, for several years SCPH has assisted in the vaccination of the raccoon population in the northeast section of the county to prevent the westward movement of a new strain of rabies. Communicable disease staff assure by direct observation that residents with active tuberculosis are taking their full course of medication to prevent antibiotic resistant strains from taking hold in Summit County. SCPH sanitarians monitor storm water discharges in communities across the county to assess for the discharge of pollutants into our waterways.

Food Safety Inspections



Routine inspections of food service operations help to make sure that routine practices are conducted in a safe and sanitary manner. Inspections and risk assessments focus on the food preparation practices of food handlers and the identification of critical violations or critical control points. The sanitation, maintenance and equipment are also assessed during routine inspection.

Food premise inspections are conducted one to four times per year, according to assigned risk level, which is determined by a number of factors such as the complexity of the menu and the population served. Inspections may be announced or unannounced, depending on the circumstances surrounding the inspection.

If any violations are found, inspectors work with the food service operator to correct the violations in accordance with the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code. In 2012, inspectors cited 2,225 critical violations, 8,571 non-critical violations and investigated over 285 complaints.

Rabies Prevention

Rabies is an infectious viral disease that affects the nervous system of humans and other mammals. People get rabies from the bite of an animal with rabies. Because rabies is a fatal disease, the goal of public health is, first, to prevent human exposure to rabies by education and, second, to prevent the disease by anti-rabies treatment if exposure occurs.

In response to a dog testing positive for rabies in 2011 in Summit County, SCPH intensified efforts to respond to all animal bites within the county. Staff has been increased to investigate and ensure that owned animals are vaccinated against rabies. In order to make rabies vaccinations available to all residents of Summit County, SCPH works with Pet Guards to offer low-cost vaccination clinics throughout the county. Eight clinics were held in 2012; 910 dogs and cats were vaccinated against rabies.



Care Coordination



The Summit County Care Coordination Unit was created to help Summit County residents connect with available community services that they may require. There are several predominant areas of need, including (but not limited to) health care access, medication assistance, transportation, housing and food assistance. Outreach specialists in the Care Coordination Unit help residents with referrals and applications, and may provide other assistance as needed. Since its inception in May 2012, more than 1,100 residents have been linked by outreach specialists and public health nurses to valuable community resources.

Promote



Public Health Promotion In Action ...

While preventive measures typically focus on the services provided to communities to enhance their overall health, promotional strategies relate to an individual's lifestyle and personal choices. Health promotion includes topics such as wearing bike helmets and seat belts, increasing physical activity, improving nutritional choices, and responsible sexual behavior. Summit County Public Health has a number of programs and services that promote a healthy lifestyle and support positive personal choices including reproductive health education for teens, HIV and STD testing, emergency preparedness, safe sleep for babies, and developmental screenings for infants and toddlers.

The Environmental Health division promotes public health by providing a number of services for community residents, including a household medical sharps disposal program which offers a low cost means to safely dispose of used needles and lancets. We work with community partners to provide drop-off containers throughout the county for the D.U.M.P (Dispose of Unused Medications Properly) program, which provides a safe and environmentally responsible method for disposal of unused medication. We also work with community partners to provide several low cost pet vaccination clinics around the county each year. The air quality staff monitor fine particle pollution, ozone and other pollutant levels. This data is fed into regional alert systems so that sensitive individuals can take precautions when the air pollutants may compromise asthma or COPD.



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Office of Minority Health

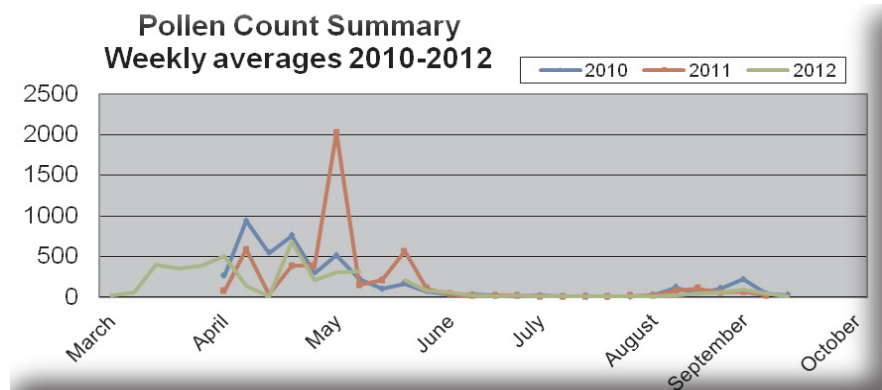
The Office of Minority Health is dedicated to providing minority health data and technical assistance to local agencies working to improve the health status of minority populations. Funded through the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, the Summit County Office of Minority Health is part of a national initiative to localize the concept of racial and ethnic health equity. The Office serves as a central location for the coordination of community health efforts targeting health improvement in Summit County's African-American/Black, Asian, Hispanic/Latino and Native American populations. The program is building local system capacity as a "clearinghouse" for information on minority health status and health data, programs and services, and funding related matters. Its overall strategic goal, developed with input from the community, is to decrease health disparities in Summit County by the provision of relevant information to community partners.



Air Quality - Pollen Count

The pollen count is performed daily from April 1 through September 30 every year and promoted on the twice-daily Air Quality Index phone line, web site and Facebook page. Due to the warm, wet winter of 2011-12, the pollen count was started on February 29, 2012.

The 2012 pollen counts were very different from most years, with the tree, grass and weed spikes occurring over a longer period with less overlap. While this allowed for lower daily total counts, those with allergies to specific tree pollen had to endure a longer reaction period. Additionally, there were very few long precipitation events in the spring and summer, so the pollen was not removed from the atmosphere to give relief to those suffering from allergies.



Industry Training - Food, Pool Operators, Home Sewage Treatment Systems

An educated workforce is a crucial element in promoting and maintaining public health standards. In 2012, SCPH offered trainings for food workers, aquatics professionals and home inspection contractors.

Education about safe food handling practices is one of the most critical interventions in the prevention of food-borne illnesses. The Food Safety program offered six presentations on food safety basics in 2012, with a total of 232 people trained. Additionally, for the first time in 2012, SCPH offered the nationally recognized Certified Pool Operator course for aquatics professionals. The class provides comprehensive pool and spa operational training to all segments of the aquatics industry. Properly trained aquatics operators protect the health and safety of swimmers through adequate knowledge of water chemistry, equipment functionality, and the prevention of hazards. A total of 40 operators and sanitarians were trained in 2012. The Water Quality division offered two courses on home sewage treatment systems and private water system inspections to home improvement contractors and inspectors in 2012.





Protect

Public Health Protection In Action...

Protecting the community's health is a primary goal of the agency. SCPH functions as a protection agency from an environmental perspective by enforcing state and local regulations related to food preparation in eating establishments, clean air, solid waste, and drinking water and a host of other domains. From a clinical perspective, SCPH provides flu vaccines to vulnerable populations and first responders, manages the treatment of individuals with a confirmed diagnosis of tuberculosis, provides treatment for individuals that test positive for sexually transmitted infections, and links individuals who are living with AIDS to critical medical care.

When prevention and promotion are not effective in mitigating environmental health hazards, enforcement of public health regulations is employed. Violations of standards may be discovered during routine inspections of food service operations, public pools, tattoo and body piercing establishments, septic systems, gas stations, schools, motels and many other facilities. Or we may be alerted to possible violations through hundreds of complaints received each year by citizens about these establishments or about animal bites, open burning violations, excessive construction site dust, septic system odors, illegal dumping of waste, and more. Whether a violation is discovered through routine inspection or complaint, sanitarians work to investigate the violation and work with the responsible party to correct all violations. In the event that the responsible party is unable or unwilling to correct the problem, escalated enforcement and prosecution may result.

Through the investigation of reportable communicable diseases, investigators work to determine the source of illness and the possible extent of the outbreak. When the source appears to be environmental, like food poisoning, recreational water or drinking water, the communicable disease staff will involve sanitarians to identify and eliminate the source and further illness.

Clinical Health

During 2012, Clinical Health Services provided Ohio Department of Health Hepatitis A and B vaccine at no charge to all STD clients, those diagnosed with Hepatitis B or C, intravenous drug users and other high risk groups, totaling 2,590 doses. This service will continue in 2013, as new guidelines will allow more clients to qualify for the vaccine.

Clinical Services provided over 400 screening physicals to newly arrived refugees during 2012. Recent refugees have come to the U.S. with more severe medical and mental health issues than have been seen in the past. This will require more coordination of care with a variety of community agencies to assure refugees are receiving the follow up care that will be needed. This population is particularly susceptible to tuberculosis, which makes it a priority for clinical health services. To reduce the likelihood of active TB cases in the community, former refugees with a history of exposure to tuberculosis are followed closely.



Air Pollution Permitting, Inspection and Enforcement



Summit County Public Health administers the Akron Regional Management District (ARAQMD), which monitors levels of ambient air pollutants, enforces air pollution regulations and inspects major industrial air pollutant sources in order to achieve and maintain clean ambient air. There are three primary focal points to the program: engineering, enforcement and monitoring.

The engineering section focuses on regulation of industrial and commercial air pollution sources, granting permits related to installation and operations, and inspection of air pollution sources and facilities.

The enforcement sector responds to complaints of odor, dust and open burning, as well as regulating gas dispensing facilities.

The monitoring sector collects air quality results to create a twice-daily Air Quality Index (AQI) which reflects the measurement of ambient air concentrations of carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone and fine particulate matter.

Healthy Homes

The Healthy Homes program incorporates a number of services to help protect Summit County residents from environmental dangers that may be encountered in a residential setting. The program handles general housing complaints, inspections of motels/hotels, jails and manufactured home parks, Smoke-Free Ohio compliance, fee-based lead inspections, risk assessment and clearance and the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP).

The goals of CLPPP are to protect children from lead poisoning through screening, providing services for lead-poisoned pregnant women, children and their families, providing education and outreach to enhance public awareness, and providing enforcement activities where needed.



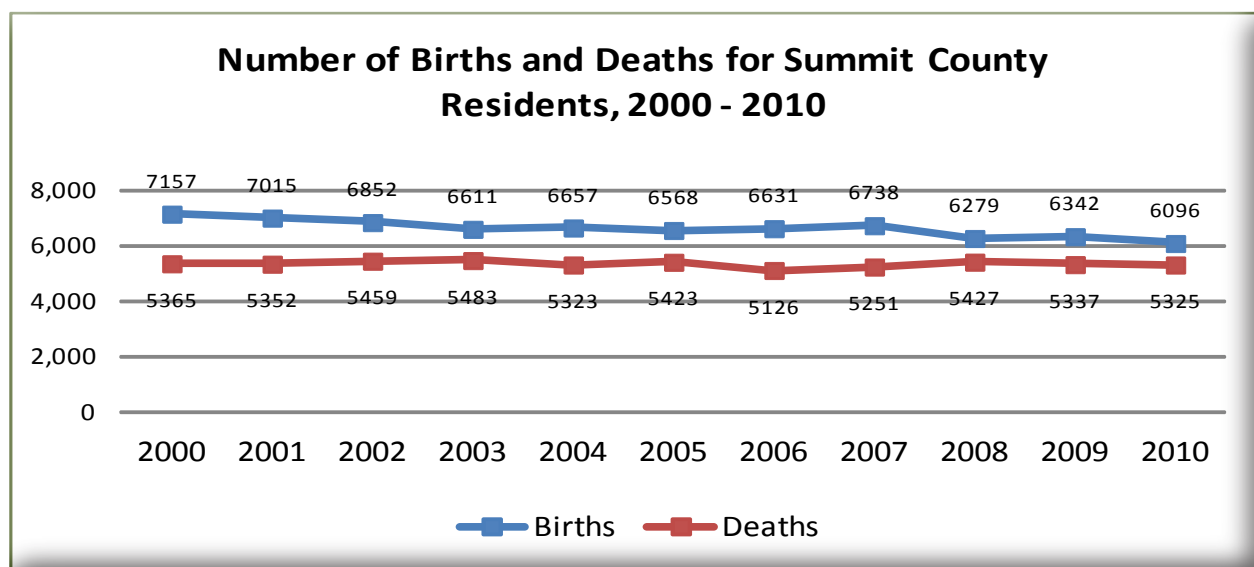
Statistics

The Summit County Public Health Communicable Disease Unit investigates the legally mandated reportable communicable disease reports of diseases acquired by Summit County residents. In 2012, nearly 4,000 disease reports were received. The Communicable Disease Unit has investigated nineteen outbreaks in 2012 – fifteen were gastrointestinal, one was shigellosis, two were respiratory, and one was mixed gastrointestinal and respiratory.

The Summit County Public Health Communicable Disease Unit also conducts seasonal surveillance programs for West Nile Virus disease and influenza. Two staff members are also responsible for the syphilis and HIV disease investigation and partner notification for five counties in addition to Summit County.

Reportable Condition	Number of Reports Received in 2012*	Reportable Condition	Number of Reports Received in 2012*
Campylobacteriosis	43	Meningitis - aseptic/viral	54
Chlamydia infection	2057	Meningococcal disease - Neisseria meningitidis	1
Cryptosporidiosis	20	Mycobacterial disease - other than tuberculosis	68
E. coli – all reportable conditions	7	Pertussis	30
Giardiasis	28	Salmonellosis	53
Gonococcal infection	748	Shigellosis	10
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	7	Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	14
Hepatitis A	10	Streptococcus pneumoniae	39
Hepatitis B (including delta) - acute	16	Varicella	20
Hepatitis B (including delta) - chronic	74	Syphilis - all stages	27
Hepatitis C - chronic	461	Tuberculosis	10
Influenza-associated hospitalization	96	HIV/AIDS	49
Legionellosis - Legionnaires' Disease	28		
Total number of cases: 3970			

* These totals reflect preliminary numbers. Final number of reportable cases will be available in March 2013.



Financials

Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash
Disbursements And Changes In Fund
Cash Balances - All Funds For The
Period Through December 2012

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Akron Contract Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenue (Grants)</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cash Receipts				
Local Taxation	3,230,675	0	0	3,230,675
State Subsidy	101,556	0	0	101,556
Environmental Health Fees	1,589,401	475,742	101,985	2,167,128
Vital Statistics	1	436,027	0	436,028
Personal Health Services	807,401	494,701	76,033	1,378,136
School Health Services	201,271	0	0	201,271
Miscellaneous Receipts	68,975	26,504	1,179,016	1,274,495
Federal Funds Reimbursement	5,000	6,460	8,464,771	8,476,231
Local Contracts (Including Akron)	33,421	3,182,881	0	3,216,302
Nuisance Abatement	0	0	0	0
State Fees	146,290	731,779	0	878,069
Total Cash Receipts	6,183,990	5,354,094	9,821,806	21,359,889
Cash Disbursements				
Salaries	2,848,599	3,168,379	4,778,722	10,795,701
PERS/Workers Comp/Medicare	485,279	528,729	790,956	1,804,964
Health Benefits	493,713	591,687	867,793	1,953,193
Travel	105,083	75,202	70,596	250,881
Supplies	242,764	276,016	524,771	1,043,551
Contracts-Services/Repairs	1,041,894	627,159	2,922,623	4,591,676
Building Rental	11,671	128,496	223,733	363,901
Advertising and Printing	6,171	8,398	25,200	39,769
Other Expenses	34,515	34,335	14,104	82,953
Equipment	62,727	62,708	137,351	262,786
Remittance to State	152,601	691,913	0	844,514
Nuisance Abatement	0	0	0	0
Debt Service-Building	0	0	0	0
Client Services	0	0	105,802	105,802
Total Cash Disbursements	5,485,016	6,193,022	10,461,651	22,139,690
Subtotal (Receipts Less Disbursements)	698,974	-838,929	-639,846	-779,800
Transfers/Advances-In (Receipts)	904,799	550,000	1,432,009	2,886,808
Transfers/Advances-Out (Disbursements) (1,812,214)	0	(1,074,594)	(2,886,808)
Reserve for Encumbrances	2,755,702	621,315	2,236,916	5,613,932
Fund Balance	2,547,261	332,386	1,954,486	4,834,132

Looking Forward...

National Accreditation

When the three health districts in Summit County consolidated in January 2011, there was an explicit commitment to maintain or improve the public health service to the communities served by the combined entity. By the end of that first year, Summit County Public Health made a bold demonstration of that commitment by initiating its application for national accreditation. The independent accreditation of public health departments across the country is seen as a step toward greater accountability in the delivery of governmental public health service and is viewed as an assurance that accredited health departments meet a set of established standards of performance.

The coming year will include a site visit from a national accreditation team trained to assess our capacity to deliver public health services to our community and weigh that capacity against national performance standards. We fully expect an accreditation determination to occur within the first half of 2013.

CQI (Continuous Quality Improvement)

National accreditation will be an achievement and a wonderful demonstration of a commitment to excellence. However, it is the ongoing practice of quality improvement and quality assurance represented by that achievement that is paramount. To that end, Summit County Public Health is implementing an agency-wide performance management system, developed and piloted across several programs in 2012. The intent of this effort is to assure a focus on operational and programmatic quality. It is what we expect of ourselves and what our communities expect of us.

New Home of Summit County Public Health



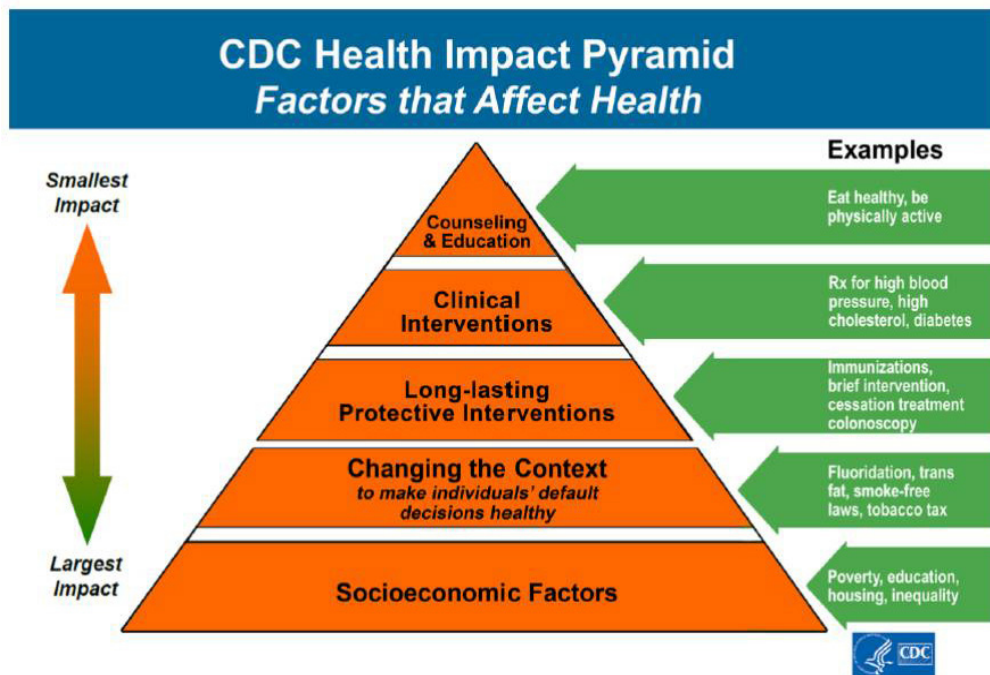
Fairway Center, 1867 Market Street, Akron, Ohio

Social Determinants of Health

The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, including the health system. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels. The social determinants of health are mostly responsible for health inequities - the unfair and avoidable differences in health.

Summit County Public Health is increasingly concerned about the social conditions within Summit County and the long-term effect on the health of its residents.

Therefore, this model, outlined here in a graphic reproduced from the County Health Rankings website, provides a comprehensive methodology for understanding how a community's collective efforts to improve health and social conditions interact with prevailing socioeconomic and health conditions.



Community Partnership - Adult Protective Services

Adult Protective Services (APS) is a program through the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services whose purpose is to assist vulnerable adults age 60 and over who are in need of protection to prevent or discontinue abuse, neglect or exploitation. The circumstances of these cases are often complex and require the assistance of multiple agencies to fully address these situations. In reviewing the APS process from referral to closure, it appeared that a more flexible and well-defined system would benefit clients and involved agencies alike.

In May 2012, Summit County Public Health partnered with the Department of Job and Family Services to launch a community response model with a number of partner agencies. Contracted services are provided through local community agencies that assist the elderly with services such as home repair, groceries and delivered meals, pharmaceutical support, housekeeping and chores and other needed services. These services are coordinated through APS adult service workers and SCPH public health nurses, sanitarians and care coordinators.

To date, close to 1,000 Summit County seniors have benefited from these efforts, and plans are in place to continue this successful joint program into the new year.