

2006



Annual Report

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department is to prevent disease and protect and promote the health of the population of Douglas County.

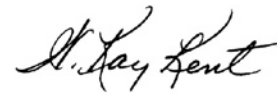
A Message from the Director

I am pleased to share with you this Annual Report which highlights the Health Department's activities for 2006.

The year of 2006 was quite memorable for the Health Department. In addition to handling the day-to-day operations, there were notable challenges that arose for the staff. An outbreak of mumps became the discussion around many dinner tables and on the front page of newspapers for hundreds of miles. We spent several months investigating the disease and educating the public as to the specific threat and how to slow the spread of mumps. The outbreak also presented an educational opportunity for the agency by giving us the chance to practice our public health emergency plan. This is just one example of what the agency does in serving the community, but there were many accomplishments the staff at the Health Department achieved this past year.

The staff has shown a deep commitment to the mission of public health in everything they have done. As new challenges arise in public health, we continue our efforts to serve the residents of Douglas County.

This year also marked the end of my career at the Health Department. After 33 rewarding years serving as the Director, I retired. I will always be grateful to the staff, Health Board, City Commission and County Commission for the support they provided to the agency as we worked to fulfill our mission of protecting and promoting the health of the community.



W. Kay Kent, RN, MS
Director

THE LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SERVES THE COMMUNITY BY

- *Monitoring, Identifying, and Addressing Health Problems*
- *Diagnosing and Investigating Health Problems and Hazards*
- *Safeguarding Public Health Laws and Regulations*
- *Developing Plans and Policies to Protect Health*

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department staff continues to focus on the mission with which it has been entrusted — to protect the health of the community, promote healthy behaviors, and prevent disease. The work of public health often happens behind the scenes. Our public health staff protects water supplies, contains disease outbreaks, teaches families healthy lifestyles, ensures that daycare facilities and schools are safe and healthy, and works on various public health initiatives.

Douglas County public health is important to all of us.



MRC volunteer promotes physical activity
with local children

Disease Control

The Communicable Disease staff was kept busy for much of the year due to a mumps outbreak which began in the spring and was declared over in December. There were 339 mumps cases in Douglas County, and many of them were found in individuals between the ages of 18-26. These cases presented new challenges for the staff as they interacted with a college-age group.

Finding ways to communicate and educate this group meant thinking creatively and working closely with community partners, such as the Student Health Services at Watkins Memorial Health Center at the University of Kansas. The Communicable Disease staff continued to track the disease for many months. Ongoing media interviews and information posted on the agency Web site helped communicate our agency's message to the public. Staff from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) came to Lawrence to collect data and investigate the outbreak. Our staff assisted the CDC while they were in Lawrence.

In late summer, a cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis outbreak began in two child care facilities. The nine cryptosporidiosis and 11 giardiasis cases were found mainly in pre-school age children. Public education again was key to containing these diseases. Staff members alerted the community and helped them understand the importance of practicing healthy behaviors. This effort proved crucial as mumps cases were also still being reported. In addition, the Health Department's Child Care Licensing staff worked with child care providers to help educate them and the children's families about how to reduce the spread of cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis.



Local media coverage

Public Health Preparedness

Due to the 2006 mumps outbreak, the Health Department activated and implemented its Incident Command System (ICS) plan. The ICS plan allows agencies to more effectively handle any emergency or disaster. Health Department staff worked closely with community partners at Student Health Services at Watkins Memorial Health Center at the University of Kansas. The staff at both agencies gained practical experience through this cooperative effort aimed at coping with a significant public health issue. By the end of 2006, all Health Department staff were trained in the basics of the ICS plan.

In addition, Douglas County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) members are being trained to respond during a public health emergency, and they help to promote health initiatives in non-emergency periods. MRC members implemented community presentations on the importance of hand washing. MRC also continued to work on public education helping Douglas County families prepare for a public health emergency.



MRC volunteer teaches proper hand washing at local school

Adult Health

Project LIVELY, a care management program for seniors, participated again in the Legislative Forum which addresses issues affecting seniors in Douglas County. It was another successful year with local lawmakers and candidates participating in the event. More than 60 people from the community attended the event and were able to voice their concerns to participants on the panel.



Legislative Forum

Project LIVELY welcomed on staff a master's level social work intern from the University of Kansas. This student was able to gain practical experience by coordinating services for Douglas County seniors. Project LIVELY staff also gained more exposure at the University of Kansas, including opportunities to interact with students interested in social work.

Child Care Facilities

In June 2006, the Child Care Licensing staff held a workshop for child care providers about ways to work with children who have challenging behaviors. Over the last few years, staff members have seen a steady increase in inappropriate adult responses to children's behavior. The staff felt it was important to prevent these situations from increasing further, so they worked with child care providers to develop and facilitate the workshop.

This unique workshop was a first for Child Care Licensing staff. Close to 50 child care providers in Douglas County participated and learned techniques on how to guide children toward managing their own behavior. In addition to child care licensing staff, five other professionals from the early care and education field presented information from their particular areas of expertise. The goal of presenting this workshop was to explore influences on a child's behavior and identify positive ways to deal with the challenges. Child care providers were also directed to resources that can extend their understanding.

Maternal and Child Health

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) continued to find ways to better educate and support families who breastfeed their babies. A breastfeeding peer counselor was brought on board to work with expectant mothers who were in need of support to breastfeed successfully. The goal of the breastfeeding peer counselor was to increase the number of mothers breastfeeding and the duration of time that mothers breastfed their children. The peer counselor advised more than 100 mothers before, during, and after their pregnancies.

The Maternal and Child Health staff played a key role in improving Douglas County's ability to serve the Latino population. An AmeriCorps Community Health Corps member helped focus the community on Latino needs through the formation of the Latino Community Coalition. In its work, the Coalition identified the need for a single point of entry to community services for Latinos. This dream of streamlining services was realized in August 2006 with the opening of Centro Hispano, Bilingual Resource Center — a collaborative effort of the Latino Community Coalition, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, and the Success By 6 Coalition.

Director Retires

Kay Kent, Director of the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department for 33 years, retired in December.

She is credited with building the Health Department to the fine organization it is today. An agency that had fewer than 10 employees and a handful of services in 1973, the Health Department has grown to include 50 employees who offer multiple services within the community. Kay's dedicated work and passion for public health has given the agency a national reputation for meeting challenges with commitment.



Kay Kent

2006 HEALTH DEPARTMENT ENCOUNTERS

Immunization visits	7,024
Family Planning visits	4,904
WIC Clinic visits	3,987
Community Health Education encounters	3,518
Environmental Health inspections	2,019
Sexually Transmitted Disease visits	1,968
Pregnancy and Parenting visits	1,808
Project LIVELY visits	1,657
HIV Counseling and Testing visits	1,375
Tuberculosis Skin Test and Related visits	1,336
Health Screening Clinics for People Over 60 visits	723
Family Health Referral visits	607
Child Care Licensing visits	488
Teen Independence Project visits	396
Other Communicable Disease visits	209
Well Child Clinic visits	117
TOTAL ENCOUNTERS	32,136

This was another productive year for the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. Public health affects everyone in the community, and the Health Department continues to serve the residents of Douglas County with dedication.

Financial Statement

Statement of Revenues and Expenses
for the Period Ending December 31, 2006
(Unaudited)

REVENUE

City	580,320
County	864,104
Fees	310,578
State	261,971
Federal	738,960
Other	127,039
TOTAL REVENUE	2,882,972 *

EXPENSES

Salaries & Wages	1,743,658
Payroll Related Expenses	528,231
Fees	87,780
General Operating	86,826
Programs	357,469
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,803,964 *

Net revenue over expenses

Restricted	66,457
Unrestricted	12,551
Total	79,008

*Net after removal of bad debts and depreciation



WIC Nutritionist involves
child in a game during
"Kickin' it with WIC" activity day

LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY HEALTH BOARD

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