



Harford County Health Department



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

"Healthy People in a Healthy Environment"

Annual Report - Fiscal Year 2013

July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

Piecing Together Public Health



Message from the Health Officer

I am pleased to present the Harford County Health Department Annual Report for fiscal year 2013, *Piecing Together Public Health*. As you read about our services and programs, you will begin to realize the complexity of public health. Each of the Health Department's many programs represents a small "piece" of the larger public health "puzzle" in our community.

The goal of public health is prevention, but there are numerous pieces which contribute to the prevention model, such as education, inspection, surveillance, monitoring, assessment and policy. The work of the Health Department is to bring together these different components of public health in order to protect and promote the health of the community as well as prevent the onset of disease.

Public health laws and regulations serve as the mechanism for implementing many prevention initiatives, so it is important to have an understanding of the laws and regulations that guide the Health Department's work. The Health Department implements its mandated responsibilities through a variety of processes, programs and interventions, highlighted throughout this report. Some of our mandates include surveillance, disease control, environmental and hazard investigations, vaccination requirements, among others. A full list of laws and regulations which guide our processes can be found on our website (www.harfordcountyhealth.com).

In addition to laws and regulations, the Health Department has a unique governing structure. Locally, the department reports to the Board of Health, an elected body of seven members which also serves as the County Council of Harford County. At the state level, the Health Department is overseen by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Local health departments, therefore, administer State and county public health laws, regulations and programs.

The landscape of public health is changing, and Harford County Health Department is at the forefront of the change. In preparation for accreditation, we are taking a deeper look at our services. We are benchmarking our successes against other health departments, implementing best practices, and ensuring that each aspect of public health is being addressed in the community in a culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate manner.

Your feedback and comments on this annual report are welcomed. Please contact us at 410-838-1500 or by email at harfordcounty.healthdepartment@maryland.gov.



Harford County Health Officer



Harford County Board of Health

**William "Billy"
Boniface**
Council President

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District A

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District B

**James "Capt'n Jim"
McMahan**
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District E

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District F

Vision

To make Harford County the healthiest county in Maryland.

Mission

To protect, promote and improve the health, safety, and environment of the citizens of Harford County through community assessment, education, collaboration, and assurance of services.

Health Care Connection

- Enrolled **136** new clients in Healthcare for the Homeless
- Processed **1,812** new applications for the Maryland Children's Health Program.
- Navigated **1,992** clients through the HealthChoice health system.
- Scheduled **94,096** one-way rides for ambulatory clients for medical appointments.

Environmental Health

- Vaccinated **2,694** dogs, cats, and ferrets.
- Approved **1,452** building permits.
- Conducted **2,077** inspections of licensed food service facilities.

Family & Women's Health

- Provided services to **2,304** clients through the Women's Wellness program.
- Provided services to **5,968** WIC participants monthly.

Child Health Services

- Served **4,843** clients at the Dental Clinic.
- Provided service coordination to **804** children through the Infants and Toddlers Program.

Fiscal Year 2013 At a Glance

Behavioral Health

- Admitted **854** clients for addiction services.
- Provided **31** Teen Diversion clients services through the day program.

Emergency Preparedness

- Distributed almost **20,000** emergency preparedness booklets on topics ranging from behavioral health to pets.

School Health

- Administered **10,307** doses of flu vaccine to Harford County students.
- Served **1,500** children through School-Based Health Centers.

Disease Prevention & Management

- Tested **1,173** people for HIV.
- Coordinated colorectal, breast, and cervical cancer screenings for **314** clients.
- Educated **10,000** private and public school students, parents, and staff about tobacco.
- Provided tobacco cessation services to **212** persons.

Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.



The Health Department has many programs which offer assistance to those encountering behavioral health problems in their lives specifically for those suffering from substance abuse or mental health issues. Our behavioral health programs can provide the help which struggling individuals may need. Some of these services include counseling, referrals for residential treatment, and comprehensive assessments. These services are provided through the following programs.

Division of Addiction Services provides outpatient substance abuse treatment for adolescents and adults.

Services include comprehensive assessments, psychiatric evaluation and medication management, suboxone treatment, naltrexone, and Vivitrol treatment. They also provide an intensive outpatient program, individual therapy and group therapy, peer counseling, family education, support groups and parent groups, alumni group, and continuing care. Methadone is also provided off-site.

- 854 clients admitted for services.
- 402 visits to the psychiatrist for psychiatric treatment and 602 visits for suboxone treatment.

Additionally, the HOPE (Healthy Options Provide Empowerment) Project, targets dually-diagnosed (addiction and mental health) inmates and links them to substance abuse, mental health, medical and case management services with the goal of reducing recidivism. The Adult Drug Court Program provides substance abuse education and treatment services for nonviolent substance abuse offenders.

Teen Diversion is a psychiatric rehabilitation program operating in partnership with Harford County Public Schools. Treatment is focused on diverting adolescents, ages 13 through 17, from a more restrictive therapeutic or educational placement and reintegrating them back into the community. Participation in the day treatment program is typically for twelve or more weeks. Crisis intervention with 24-hour support is also provided as well as an optional AfterCare program to help ensure the teen's long-term success.

- Provided services to 31 teens and their families in the day program and 11 teens in the AfterCare program.
- 20 out of 25 students re-entered their home schools or previous educational setting after placement at Teen Diversion.



Utilizing funding from the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC), a texting program was piloted with Teen Diversion clients in order to increase medication appointment attendance and medication compliance. Teens and families reported that this communication has been beneficial as it offers timely and non-intrusive reminders. The texting program will expand next year to include therapy appointment reminders.



The Health Department works to ensure that children across Harford County are developing into strong and healthy young adults. Through programs which target the health of our youth, the Health Department helps families assure their children are developing appropriately. To achieve this goal, services offered include dental

care such as cleanings and sealants, as well as early intervention services such as speech and physical therapy which are strengthened through county partnerships. This is accomplished through the following programs.

Dental Health Services - the Dental Clinic serves children ages 1-20 on the Maryland Children's Health Program and pregnant women on the Medical Assistance Program and provides same-day treatment for dental emergencies involving infection and trauma. The dental clinic offers both hygiene and dental care services. These services include, but are not limited to, dental cleanings, fluoride treatments, dental sealants, restorations, and root canals.



- Served 4,843 clients at the clinic.
- Provided services for 6,500 patients since the clinic opened in March 2008.

Infants and Toddlers is a multi-agency program providing individualized early intervention services to qualifying children and their families who reside in Harford County. Working in collaboration with the Department of Social Services and Harford County Public Schools, the program provides special instruction, occupational/physical/speech therapy, audiology, and service coordination.

- Received 57 new referrals monthly and provided service coordination to 804 children annually.



The prevention of chronic disease is one of the most important aspects of public health as well as helping those who currently suffer from chronic disease to manage their condition. The Health Department provides health education activities in order to prevent and reduce chronic disease and encourage healthy lifestyles. Some services include HIV testing and counseling, tobacco education and cessation, cancer education and screenings, and immunizations. These services are offered through the following programs.

The Public Health Education Unit provides health education and informational services to keep community partners and the public abreast of public health issues and activities. This unit also provides free tobacco cessation classes and counseling to Harford County residents.

- Provided education on the health risks and consequences of tobacco use to 10,000 Harford County K-12 private and public school students, parents, and teachers and to an additional 4,000 community members including 300 community leaders.
- Provided tobacco cessation classes and services to 212 clients of whom



141 received cost-free nicotine replacement product.

- Disseminated 25 news releases to governmental, media and public information representatives.

Public Health Matters is a program on Harford Cable Network (HCN) that addresses public health issues that matter the most to Harford County residents. The program is hosted by the Health Officer, features authoritative guests, and covers timely, current issues related to health and the local community.

- During FY13, two new programs were produced including tobacco and diabetes.

The Cancer Prevention Services Unit provides screenings for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers, and case manages clients found to have screening abnormalities through the coordination of appropriate diagnostic and treatment services. In addition, the program provides education on targeted cancers to healthcare providers as well as to the public at community and faith-based venues throughout the county.

- Implemented nearly a million cancer prevention information exposures through multiple media outlets.
- Provided 222 screenings for Breast & Cervical Cancer (BCC) Program clients and 83 colorectal cancer screening procedures through the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) Cancer Program.
- Case managed an additional 11 women under the Expanded BCC program and provided treatment services for three colorectal cancer clients.

HIV/AIDS Services Unit provides free, anonymous and/or confidential HIV antibody testing, educational

- Performed HIV testing on 1,173 persons.
- Provided 5,287 medical case management encounters for approximately 140 HIV/AIDS clients.

counseling, and case management. Additionally, medical services are available to HIV/AIDS clients via a partnership with the Johns Hopkins Hospital Moore Clinic. This multidisciplinary team approach affords the patient intensive, wrap-around medical management at a local level.

Communicable Disease Surveillance and Control Unit is responsible for communicable disease surveillance and investigation, outbreak response, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and control, tuberculosis (TB) management and control, immunization services, pre-rabies exposure immunizations and post-rabies exposure referral, perinatal hepatitis B case management, and Refugee/Migrant Health Worker Program. They also are responsible for planning and coordinating the seasonal influenza clinics. The Harford County Health Department has one of the highest employee flu immunization rates of all Maryland health departments.



- 998 community partners and members of local government received the flu vaccine as well as 275 employees and family members of the health department.
- 904 clients were served through the STI clinics.



The Environmental Health Division at the Health Department is responsible for not only protecting the health of the consumer but also our natural resources in the county. Environmental Health accomplishes this through activities such as food service facility and pool inspections as well as through the review of building and well permits. These tasks are accomplished through the Consumer Protection Unit and the Resource Protection Unit.

The Consumer Protection Unit conducts inspections of food service facilities, reviews plans for new and remodeled food service facilities, investigates foodborne and zoonotic disease and nuisance complaints, enforces rabies and vector control regulations, and performs inspection of camps, non-public schools, adoptions/foster care homes, and public pools.

- Conducted 2,077 inspections of licensed food service facilities.
- Conducted 271 public pool inspections and issued 96 permits.
- Investigated 189 complaints related to insect and vector control.



The Resource Protection Unit is responsible for reviewing building permits, issuing on-site sewage disposal system (OSDS) permits and well permits, conducting soil percolation tests, and performing water quality sampling. In addition, the Unit issues burning permits, inspects daycare facilities, and responds to a variety of air pollution and solid waste complaints.

- Approved 1,452 building permits.
- Conducted 407 solid waste, air, and sewage nuisance complaint investigations.
- Issued 222 well permits.
- Performed 655 percolation tests/soil evaluations.

During FY13, a groundwater study was conducted by Environmental Health staff in collaboration with the Maryland Geological Society. Lead sampling was

performed on approximately 80 wells throughout the county. A report of the Water Quality Study will be finalized in the fall of 2013. Additionally, new regulations were implemented on January 1, 2013 that requires "Best Available Technology" units to be installed on all new on-site sewage disposal systems. Staff was active in the fall of 2012 notifying all interested entities of the new regulations. The purpose of the regulations is to help reduce the amount of nitrogen load from on-site sewage disposal systems in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.



The Health Department helps to ensure that women and families have the knowledge of and access to resources which promote their health. Women and families should be aware of the necessity of preventive health services to achieve optimum health. Some services available include basic gynecological services as well as breastfeeding support. These services are available through the following programs.

Women's Wellness provides confidential Family Planning and Colposcopy services to uninsured and

underinsured women in order to improve reproductive health and well-being. They may receive basic gynecological services, contraceptive education and birth control, testing for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), walk-in pregnancy testing and emergency contraception. Clients with abnormal pap smears are referred to our Colposcopy Clinic.

- Provided services for 2,304 clients.
- Provided 552 pregnancy tests and 182 emergency contraceptives to walk-in clients.

Additionally, a “Comprehensive Women’s Health Care” program began this year in which clinic patients are screened and referred for unmet health care needs. Also, a partnership was established with the University of Maryland (UMD) Dental

School Clinic in Perryville to ensure dental care for their clients. Those who have dental needs can receive vouchers through the Comprehensive Women’s Health Care program to be used at the UMD Dental School Clinic.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a federally funded program serving pregnant women, new

mothers, infants and children under age five in Harford and Cecil Counties. The program offers nutrition education, health screening, breast-feeding support and supplemental nutritious foods to participants. Additionally, WIC participants receive monthly food checks for healthy foods and receive Farmers’ Market checks each summer for fruits and vegetables.

- Provided services to an average monthly caseload of 5,968; including 664 pregnant women, 775 post-partum women, 320 breastfeeding women, 2,952 children and 1,543 infants.
- 46% of the post-partum women enrolled in the program are breastfeeding.



The Health Department offers many programs which help link Harford County residents to services to meet their health care needs. Some services offered by our programs include outreach and education on Medical Assistance, coordinating transportation to medical appointments, and assistance with accessing medical and social services. Additionally, birth and death certificates can be obtained in-person at the Health Department. These tasks are accomplished through the following programs.

Healthcare for the Homeless is a collaboration between the Harford County Health Department (HCHD)

and Upper Chesapeake HealthLink Primary Care Clinic that provides intensive case management and medical services to individuals who lack a secure place to live. Staff determines the availability of entitlements and benefits

- Enrolled 136 new case management clients.
- Documented approximately 411 total case management encounters.

and coordinates medical care and shelter. They also provide referrals for mental health and substance abuse treatment for homeless clients, individuals recently released from incarceration, and those who reside in transitional housing.

Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) provides full health benefits through Managed Care

Organizations (MCOs) for children up to age 19 and pregnant women of any age who meet income criteria. The Medical Assistance for Families program provides the same benefits as MCHP but expands eligibility coverage to those parents and/or adults who care for children as well as for children ages 19 and 20.

- Processed 1,812 new applications and 2,269 renewal applications.

Medical Assistance (MA) Transportation arranges

taxicab, wheelchair van and ambulance transportation for eligible Medical Assistance recipients who are accessing medical care.

- Scheduled 94,096 one-way rides for ambulatory clients.
- Scheduled 4,383 wheelchair and ambulance one-way rides for non-ambulatory clients.

Care Coordination & Outreach Child and Family Unit provides health education and care

coordination outreach services to HealthChoice enrollees. Case reviews of fetal, infant, and child fatality are performed as well as care coordination services for children with elevated blood lead levels. Additionally, resource information is provided for high-risk newborns and high risk postpartum women. Respite care funds are available to families that have children with special health care needs.

- Distributed respite care funding to 70 families.
- Navigated 1,992 clients through the HealthChoice health care system.
- Provided 98 high-risk postpartum and infant hospital referrals.

Care Coordination & Outreach Senior and Disability Unit – the Adult Evaluation and Review

Service (AERS) and Medical Assistance and Personal Care (MAPC) programs provide evaluation and personal care monitoring to Harford County residents. In addition, through the Hospital and Nursing Facility Outreach Program, registered nurses seek out hospitalized individuals 18 years of age and older who are at risk for long-term institutionalization to provide intensive discharge planning and subsequent follow-up in the home setting.

- Provided medical assistance services to an average of 93 individuals.
- Provided 353 comprehensive evaluations for aged and functionally disable adults.



Vital Records – Certified copies of birth certificates for eligible individuals who were born in Maryland and are on the State of Maryland Online System can be obtained at the Health Department. Death certificates may also be obtained from the Health Department within 30 days of death.

- Processed 5,123 birth certificates and 667 death certificates.



An essential part of public health is addressing the health needs of our community during and after a disaster. Emergency Preparedness focuses on educating the public on how residents can take steps to prepare their family for an emergency or disaster. The Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program works closely with all community partners to develop and exercise plans, provide training, and coordinate response efforts in a variety of health situations.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program collaborates with other

Harford County agencies and regional health departments to strategically prepare for and respond to natural or man-made emergencies. In concert with all Harford County Health Department (HCHD) employees, staff is available 24 hours a day to respond to public health emergencies.

- The Harford County Commission on Disabilities Employment Committee selected the annual Emergency Preparedness Month education display project to receive the 2012 Media Award. HCHD collaborated with the Emergency Operations Center's Citizen Corps Council, the Harford County Public Library, and the Department of Community Services Office on Aging and Disabilities Services on this effort. The Emergency Preparedness displays were made available in libraries and senior activity centers in order to ensure that individuals with functional needs, mobility issues, and the elderly had the opportunity to learn the simple steps to make a plan, prepare an emergency supply kit, and develop a social network.



The Health Department provides specific school based services to ensure the health of school students in Harford County. The main goal of these programs is to assist in keeping students healthy so they are able to learn, develop and succeed in the classroom. This is accomplished through the provision of school-based health centers in some Title 1 elementary schools as well as through the school-based FluMist program.

School-Based Health Centers provide health care, mental health care, and preventive services to students

in four Title 1 elementary schools who may lack access to health care. Licensed nurse practitioners examine, diagnose, and prescribe medication for problems such as ear infections, asthma, rashes, etc., provide comprehensive physical exams and assist school nurses with vision/hearing screenings. Social workers provide counseling for children and their families, help address behavior issues, and assist families in accessing community resources.

- Provided medical and mental health services to 1,500 children.

School-Based FluMist Program is planned and implemented by the Communicable Disease Unit in collaboration with the Health Department's Emergency Preparedness Program. Harford County ranks highest among all 24 Maryland jurisdictions in childhood influenza vaccination rates, due in large part to the local health department/local school system partnership events.

- Administered 10,307 doses of FluMist to public and private elementary school students.



Many of the Health Department's programs and initiatives would not be possible without the support of community partners. The Health Department works in collaboration with their partners in order to reach a greater portion of the community and share ideas on how to improve the health of Harford County residents. During fiscal year 2013, their partners were called upon to collaborate on efforts such as the Local Health Improvement Process, the Obesity Task Force, and the work of Healthy Harford, Harford County's healthy community initiative. In order to support these efforts, the Health Department continues to apply for and receive additional grant funding.

The **Obesity Task Force** was formed in response to the passing of the Obesity Task Force Resolution by Harford County Council in October 2011 which identified obesity as an important community health issue. The task force was charged with making recommendations on strategies to reverse the obesity trend in the County. These were presented to County Council on October 4, 2012. A key recommendation was the creation of a standing wellness board which was realized on June 11, 2013, with the passing of Bill No. 13-28, co-sponsored by Councilwoman Lisanti and Council Member McMahan, which established a "Harford County Healthy Community Planning Board".

The **Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC)**, launched in December 2011, continues to have an active presence in the community through three working groups focused on making improvements to County health outcomes in top priority areas: obesity, tobacco, and behavioral health. Over the past year, community members have been engaged in events that promote active living and healthy eating. A multi-media marketing campaign was also launched to encourage residents to quit using tobacco. Additionally, a conference was held for behavioral health professionals on the importance of mental health and substance abuse service integration. Many of these



initiatives were supported in part by two grants (1) the Community Transformation Grant (CTG), a federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention program through the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and (2) the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) Grant.

The CTG, which is aimed at community-level efforts that promote a healthy lifestyle, supported an anti-tobacco multi-media campaign created by the LHIC Tobacco Workgroup. The campaign included car

magnets, outdoor advertising along the Rt. 40 corridor, advertisements inside Harford Transit Link buses and in the Harford County Resource Guide, and on Regal Cinema movie screens prior to feature films. This grant also supported many healthy eating/active living initiatives in licensed child care centers and three Harford County Public Schools (William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary, Havre de Grace Elementary, and Edgewood Elementary). The CHRC grant was used to create a Healthy Harford marketing plan through A. Bright Idea and support a text message pilot program aimed at improving adherence and medication compliance. Additionally, the CHRC funded a Behavioral Health Integration conference entitled *Embracing Change* in June 2013 which was sponsored and planned in partnership with the Health Department's Division of Addiction Services, Harford County Government, Office of Mental Health, and Harford Community College.



Two New Public Health Grants were awarded to the Health Department at the end of Fiscal Year 2013 to improve health outcomes of Harford County residents. These awards will help uninsured County residents obtain health insurance through the new Affordable Care Act, the federal government's health care reform initiative.

HCHD was one of seven Maryland local health departments to be awarded a grant by the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) in an amount of \$200,000 to coordinate care and provide preventive behavioral health services to high-risk residents. The project advances public health goals identified by Harford County's LHIC. Specifically, the project will identify individuals with complex health and social service needs, coordinates and ensures the delivery of an array of services, and helps achieve cost saving by removing barriers to health care. Building on the Health Department's existing Comprehensive Women's Health Project, grant funds will be used to recruit nurse and social worker Care Coordinators.

In addition, Seedco, Inc., selected by the Maryland Health Benefits Exchange (MHBE) as the Connector Entity for Harford County and six other Upper Eastern Shore counties, will be providing \$187,000 to the Health Department to recruit Assistants who will help residents sign up for Medicaid through Maryland's new health insurance program. Assistants will help residents obtain health insurance with a particular focus on hard-to-reach populations. Care Coordinators will be paired with Assistants throughout the County to identify residents in need of health care, assist with insurance enrollment, and facilitate access to health care and other needed services.

Healthy Harford a non-profit organization established in 1993 by

leaders from Upper Chesapeake Health, Harford County Health Department, and Harford County Government, is dedicated to improving the health of Harford County residents. Healthy Harford aims to reduce lifestyle related health diseases by creating a community where making the healthy choice is

the easy choice. As a community coalition of over 30 active businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies, Healthy Harford brings together different segments of the community to work together to remove barriers and limitations to healthy living. Healthy Harford maintains a website (<http://www.healthyharford.org>) where county residents can access general wellness information, local community activities, and public health updates, and a



Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/HealthyHarford>) which provides a more personal interactive venue for health news and trends, local happenings, and events.

During fiscal year 2013, Healthy Harford areas of focus were on the Local Health Improvement Process (LHIP), the Obesity Task Force, the Community Transformation Grant (CTG), Tobacco Workgroup, as well as collaborations with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, Harford County Sheriff's Office, Harford County Planning and Zoning, and Harford County Council. This included work on enhancing the built environment to make the community more pedestrian and bicycle friendly, providing community nutrition and physical activity education programs, collaborating on the County Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan, increasing bike parking at schools and county locations, enhancing school wellness programs and providing free bike helmets to area youth. Additionally, Healthy Harford assisted in the establishment of a Healthy Community Planning Board with the intent to review local plans for public health implications and makes recommendations regarding their health impacts, establishing a Healthy Pediatrician Workgroup to encourage pediatricians to talk with their patients and families about establishing healthy lifestyles, and collaborating with local law enforcement to encourage traffic calming measures from improved pedestrian and cyclist safety. Finally, Healthy Harford Day was celebrated on October 11, 2012 with the intention of raising awareness in the community of the importance of healthy eating and active living.



Community Engagement activities are a significant part of the Health Department's community outreach efforts. Staff participates in a number of resource fairs throughout the year to share public health and resource information. In addition, the Health Department offers support to local partners by participating in annual community events such as the Sexual Abuse Resource Center's (SARC) "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" held in April 2013 and the Department of Community Services' Bike to Work Day held in May 2013.



Spotlight on FY13 Accomplishments

A **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant** was awarded to the Health Department in the fall of 2012. This grant supported the creation and institutionalization of a quality improvement (QI) framework. QI helps an organization continually identify where they are and where they want to be in terms of performance. The award included technical assistance from a national QI expert, which assisted the health department in strengthening its services to Limited English Proficiency clients.



An **Application for Accreditation** was submitted to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) on December 28, 2012. Staff worked diligently to complete the Health Department's Strategic Plan, a Community Health Assessment, and a comprehensive Community Health Improvement Plan to submit as a part of the application package. Subsequently, staff attended accreditation training in May 2013. The Health Department will spend the next year compiling documentation to meet the accreditation standards, with a final submission anticipated in May 2014.

The **Employee of the Year Award** was given to two groups in December 2012, the Information Technology (IT) staff and the Teen Diversion staff. The IT staff was recognized for their exemplary customer service skills



and knowledge of any task that comes their way. Due to their suggestions and solutions, overall operations of the Health Department have been improved. Teen Diversion focuses on diverting adolescents, ages 13-17, from a more restrictive placement and reintegrating them back into the community. Teen Diversion staff was recognized not only due to their excellent work on a daily basis, but because of their creativity to make this one-of-a-kind program a model for the state.



The **Cities Readiness Initiative Plan** was reviewed by the State of Maryland Office of Preparedness and Response using the CDC's extensive technical review process in January 2013. The resulting score of 100 points placed Harford County in the top 3-5% of all jurisdictions in the US with regard to emergency planning readiness. This is the second year in a row that the Health Department has received a perfect score.

The **Dental Program** received approval in January 2013 to screen and apply fluoride varnish to students in all 36 public school pre-kindergarten classes in Harford County. In addition, the Dental Program also received approval for a pilot program to screen and apply varnish to kindergarten and third grade students in three elementary schools

(Havre de Grace, North Bend, and North Harford). Based on parental consent, 468 children were screened, 417 received fluoride varnish treatments, 228 were referred for dental treatment, and over 900 students received oral health education. This new initiative was approved to continue next school year and will expand to offer the screenings and fluoride treatments to kindergarten and third grade students in all of the Title 1 Elementary Schools.



In support of **National Kick Butts Day**, nearly 5,000 fifth grade students across Harford County pledged never to try tobacco by signing their names on banners. These banners were presented and displayed during the celebration on March 20, 2013 to raise awareness of Harford County's tobacco problem and encourage youth to stay tobacco-free. Representatives from Harford County Council, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), and other local partners were in attendance to show their support for this effort.

The **Teen Diversion Program** initiated a partnership with the Harford County Public Schools Alternative Education Program in May 2013. The Stabilization, Treatment, and Education Program (STEP) will offer the Alternative Education Program two direct placement slots for students with educational disabilities/significant mental health needs who are in need of more intensive support for a short time. STEP served one student last school year and will again be available during the 2013-2014 school year.

Rabies vaccinations were administered to 2,694 dogs, cats, and ferrets during the World Rabies Day clinic and the spring vaccination clinics. This is the highest yearly total on record. Of that record total, 298 animals were vaccinated at the World Rabies Day Clinic held on September 29, 2012 which is the highest number since the inception of the clinic in 2008.



Champions for Children is sponsored by the Local Management Board and is intended to recognize the outstanding contributions of professionals, volunteers, and youth who go above and beyond the call of duty to help children in Harford County. This year in June 2013, Paula Nash, Program Director of Teen Diversion, was one of the recipients of this award for her work with children both inside and outside the Health Department. Paula received this award due in large part to her passion and creativity to help meet the needs of children so they may remain in their homes and with their families. She is known for always looking for ways to close the gaps and get people to work together for the benefit of children.

Locations & Directory of Services



WOODBRIIDGE STATION

**1321 Woodbridge Station Way
Edgewood, Maryland 21040
410-612-1779**

Services: Cancer Prevention, Communicable Disease, Women's Wellness and Colposcopy Services, Immunization, Public Health Education, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Testing, Tobacco Cessation and Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)

DENTAL CLINIC

**2204 Hanson Road
Edgewood Plaza Shopping Center
Edgewood, Maryland 21040
443-922-7670 • Fax: 443-922-7673**

Services: Dental Care for Children and Pregnant Women on the MCHP Program

HEALTH SERVICES

**1 North Main Street
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410-638-3060 • Fax: 410-638-4927**

Services: HIV Case Management and Homeless Service Coordination

ABERDEEN COMMUNITY CENTER

**34 North Philadelphia Boulevard
Aberdeen, Maryland 21001
410-273-5626 • 410-273-5656 (WIC)**

Services: Administrative Care Coordination and Child & Family Services, Adult Evaluation Review Services, Medical Assistance Personal Care, Hospital Discharge Program, Senior and Disability Services and WIC

THOMAS HAYS BUILDING

**120 South Hays Street
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410-838-1500**

Services: Administrative Services, Addiction Services, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Health, Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP), Medical Assistance (MA) Transportation and Vital Records

CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

**Teen Diversion
253 Paradise Road
Aberdeen, Maryland 21001
410-273-5681 • Fax: 410-273-5556**

Services: Group, Family and Individual Therapy, Medication and Case Management and Day Treatment for Adolescents, Psychiatric Rehabilitation