A Message from Our Health Officer

We are pleased to present Harford County Health Department’s FY 2017 Annual Report. The health of Harford County residents improved in many areas, including reductions in our heart disease, cancer, stroke, and infant mortality rates. However, challenges remain, especially in the areas of substance use disorders, access to behavioral health services, tobacco use prevention, and the promotion of healthy lifestyle behaviors – areas that will take a community-wide effort to address.

This past year brought with it a unique set of challenges for public health on the local, state, and national levels. At the local level, we thank Susan Kelly our former Health Officer for her 46 years of dedicated public health service following her recent retirement. At the state and national levels, we face uncertainties regarding the direction and financing of our health care system. Through it all, the Health Department remains committed to providing the highest quality of care to all Harford County residents.

We continue our role as the County’s safety net provider for vulnerable and underserved populations. Our clinical services remain very busy, with nearly 10,000 encounters in our Behavioral Health Program, over 4,000 encounters in our Children’s Dental Health Program, over 2,000 encounters in our Women’s Health Program, and an average monthly caseload of over 5,000 in our WIC Nutritional Services Program. Our care coordination services are also extremely busy, with over 2,000 Medicaid participants enrolled in our MCHP Insurance Program, nearly 3,000 Medicaid care coordination encounters, over 5,000 HIV case management encounters, and over 80,000 Medicaid transportation provisions. In addition to our safety net services, we remain focused on our population health responsibilities, including our commitment to environmental health, emergency preparedness, disease outbreak investigation and control, public health education and outreach, and community health assessment and improvement.

There is much more to be done, as we work to promote and protect the health, safety, and environment of the residents of Harford County. We will do so through public health assessment, education, collaboration and assurance of services. This is our mission. Making Harford County the healthiest community in our State is our vision.

Russell Moy, MD, MPH
Acting Health Officer
Harford County Health Department