

Randolph County Health Department Annual Report

FY 2014-15



Randolph County Public Health Mission Statement

The mission of the Randolph County Health Department is to preserve, protect and improve the health of the community. This mission is accomplished through the collection and dissemination of health information, education and service programs aimed at the prevention of disease, protection of the environment and improvement of the quality of life for our citizens.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Letter from the Health Director	2
Animal Control	3
Child Care Health Consultant	4
Pregnancy Care & Child Care Coordination	4
Communicable Disease	5
Preparedness	6
Dental Health	6
Environmental Health	7
Health Education	8
WIC	8
Women's Health	9



A Letter from the Health Director

MiMi Cooper

The year was 1989. I had just finished Graduate School and Health Director George Elliott gave me an assignment. He wanted me to produce an annual report for the Board of Health. He wanted to focus on the work we had done in the past year. He wanted each program manager to be involved in presenting their information and he dedicated an entire board meeting for this purpose. Few agencies in public health were reporting this kind of information to the community back then but George was correct in seeing the importance of benchmarking and working toward goals and objectives.



We have presented an annual report every year since 1989. The quality of the reports have greatly improved. The performance measures are tied to outcomes and best practices. We are measuring our community's success in protecting health. Staff look forward to this event and take great care in preparing their comments to the Board. We always leave this meeting proud of what we accomplished and fired up for the next year.

Just as I presented the first annual report in 1989, it is with great pride that I present to you the 2014-2015 Annual Report. From my first to my last report, I couldn't be prouder of the people and the work of the Randolph County Health Department.

Board of Health

Robert Dough, MD, Chairman

Marianne Evans, Pharm.D

Daryl Hill, DDS

Julie Mabe, RN

Lyn Richardson, MEd, RD

Cathy Waddell, Community Member

Stan Haywood, County Commissioner

Charles Lee, DVM

Brad Rice, MEd, Community Member

Mack Sumney, PE

William Walker, OD

Animal Control

Animal Control had several major accomplishments throughout FY2014-15. In late July 2014, shelter staff received several threats to their safety. With guidance from the sheriff's office, some necessary changes were implemented in order to keep staff safe from harm. Changes included installation of surveillance cameras, controlled access at all doors, adding more exit doors and training staff for use of pepper spray. In addition, the County Commissioners made an exception to the county weapons policy to allow animal control staff who had permits to carry a concealed weapon while working in the shelter building.



The largest single animal seizure of the year occurred in October 2014 when a county resident with 131 animals lost her nuisance animal appeal in Superior Court. She was court ordered to rehome her animals by mid-October. When she failed to do so Animal Control was ordered to remove them from her property. Animal Control staff, with help from the sheriff's office and a veterinarian from the NC Zoo worked for hours to remove all animals from the property. Animals included dogs, cats, sheep, cows, llamas, chickens, geese, an ostrich and miniature horses.

In November shelter staff made changes to the animal health policy and began vaccinating all animals upon intake. Previously, only those animals deemed adoptable were vaccinated. Vaccinations provided include parvo, distemper, bordetella, rabies, as well as de-wormer. Depending on the length of stay, animals receive booster shots at two weeks of their original intake and puppies and kittens every two weeks until they are twenty weeks old. This has been beneficial at keeping disease down at the shelter and allowed for animals to be sent to foster or adopted in a healthier state.



More animals were adopted during FY2014-15 compared to the previous years. The shelter has seen an increase in the number of adoptions. Shelter staff have worked very hard to partner with local rescues. As a result, shelter dogs have connected with homes all over the country. Dogs have been adopted in New York, New Jersey, Florida, Georgia, Washington, Idaho and Hawaii.



Lastly, the Animal Control Supervisor visited several schools within the county to talk to kindergarten and first graders about the shelter and animal control duties. After visiting Hopewell Elementary School, first graders collected donations and visited the shelter on a rainy April morning. Eighty-eight children, several teachers and shelter staff gathered in the front lobby of the shelter as children presented dog and cat food, bowls, toys and much more. The kids were also able to walk dogs and tour the shelter. Shelter staff thoroughly enjoyed the time spent with those kids.

Child Health

Child Care Nurse Consultant

In the spring of 2015, the Child Care Health Consultant and the Health Educator collaborated to do a gardening activity during the third annual Play Daze event sponsored by the Partnership for Children. The activity was held in Archdale at Creekside Park on May 13. All area child care facilities were invited to attend. Many of the children were accompanied by a parent or guardian. Children were provided soil and fruit and vegetable plants consisting of watermelon, tomatoes and beans. Eco-friendly containers were also given to children so that they could replant them at home. Some of the children were happy to dig with their hands, others wanted to use the spoons that were supplied. Many of the children asked questions such as “Will this really grow a tomato?” and “When I grow beans, can I eat them?”



Towards the end of the day some of the plants had started to wilt. During conversations it was discussed that the plants would need water as soon as they got home. A group of children then decided they wanted their plants to have water immediately, so they ran, with the plants, to the water play station and used that water to give the plants “a drink.” This activity provided opportunity to discuss where food comes from, how it grows, and why vegetables are important. Overall, approximately 1,200 plants were either planted by the children or donated to childcare facilities.

Pregnancy Care Management & Care Coordination for Children

The Care Coordination for Children (CC4C) and Pregnancy Care Management (OBCM) programs provide case management for targeted high risk clients who participate in Medicaid. OBCM targets high risk pregnancies in an effort to reduce preterm deliveries in North Carolina. CC4C targets high risk children aged birth to 5 years to assist these children with available resources.

Percentage / Number of CC4C Patients Deferred for “Unable to Contact” (Target is zero)					
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Year Total
2013-14	44% / 61	32% / 44	38% / 57	7% / 24	24% / 186
2014-15	7% / 33	4% / 27	7% / 36	4% / 25	6% / 121

Both care management programs improved performance measures during FY2014-15. Statistics for each measure are at or above the state average. Reasons for success include partnering with local agencies to improve the health of children and pregnant women throughout the county. In addition, CC4C and OBCM staff tried various strategies to improve client contact such as requiring home visits, utilizing more referral methods and increasing caseloads.

Percentage / Number of OBCM Patients Deferred for “Refused Service” (Target is 0-5%)					
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Year Total
2013-14	5% / 6	6% / 11	10% / 10	24% / 16	9% / 38
2014-15	4% / 6	4% / 5	4% / 4	4% / 5	4% / 20

Communicable Disease

Tuberculosis (TB)

In July, 2014, a patient moved into Randolph County from another country. This patient presented with symptoms to Randolph Hospital consistent with Tuberculosis (TB) in December, 2014. On December 10, Randolph Hospital reported that the patient was positive for TB. The patient began a regimen of TB drugs on December 11. Health department staff began Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) daily at the patient's home, including weekends and holidays.

Many man hours were spent locating the patient's contacts. As a result, two after hour clinics were held to test contacts for possible TB. An educational session was held at the original patient's church as well. There were 108 people exposed, five of which were located in surrounding counties. Three adults and two children developed symptoms of TB and started DOT. Due to transportation barriers, multiple home visits were made by health department nurses to test and read results of individuals who were previously tested for TB. As of May 19, 2015, five patients are still receiving twice weekly Directly Observed Therapy of TB medications.



Flu



On Friday, August 15, 2014 public health nurses received a phone call from a local long-term care facility stating ten residents were sick with cough, sore throat, and fever. Monday, August 18, one resident had been hospitalized and was positive for Influenza A. Guidance from the state communicable disease consultant suggested that the facility perform Nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs on all residents exhibiting flu-like symptoms. Further suggestions included increasing contact precautions in staff, limiting visitors and to report all new cases of illness to the health department. The outbreak was contained through good hand washing and the isolation of sick patients and staff.

Syphilis

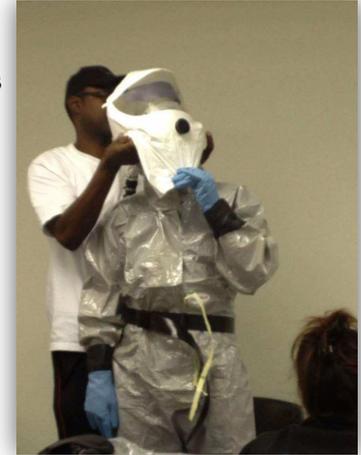
In the first three months of 2015, North Carolina had a 56% increase in early syphilis infections. Randolph County has seen a slight increase in the number of cases as well. Communicable Disease staff met with the Regional Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) to discuss possibilities for the increase. Reasons included more men having sex with men (MSM) and a rise in HIV-positive individuals.

As a result of the increase in cases, nurses have heightened surveillance for individuals, are performing syphilis serologic testing for anyone with signs or symptoms of the disease, and treating cases based on standing orders.

Preparedness

Ebola

In October 2014, the health department began Ebola Preparedness activities with guidance provided by state public health. Weekly conference calls and face-to-face meetings were held in collaboration with core partners. Such partners consisted of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Randolph Hospital, Asheboro Fire Department and local law enforcement.



Two health department employees attended a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) training class at Randolph Hospital. Extra PPE was purchased for health department staff to practice donning and doffing (putting on and taking off) PPE. Exercises were held for all staff on how to handle a patient with a suspected case of Ebola. An additional exercise with EMS and Randolph Hospital was conducted and involved going through the process of isolation and transport of a client with possible Ebola disease.

Tabletop Exercise



On April 21, 2015, Randolph County held a Hazardous Tabletop Exercise at Randolph Community College. The tabletop exercise provided the opportunity for various agencies and community partners to operate collaboratively, establishing expectations and an understanding of roles and responsibilities during a hazardous materials event at the Georgia Pacific facility in Asheboro. Such agencies included: Emergency Management, local fire and law enforcement, public health, Red Cross, public works and the Regional Response Team.

Dental Health

On September 15, 2014, the Board of Health voted to allow the dental clinic to see preschool children beginning at one year of age, aligning with the recommendation of the American Dental Association. While children at this age do not have many teeth, these visits offer a chance for them to be examined by a dentist and to receive a topical fluoride treatment. These visits also provide an educational opportunity for parents on the importance of developing good dental habits early.

Most of the preschoolers seen in the dental clinic were referred by WIC and Child Coordination for Children (CC4C) program staff. As a result of seeing preschoolers, dental staff are now scheduling additional children within these families who have never been seen for dental care. During the year, 38 new preschool children were seen and seventeen of their siblings were seen as a result. An additional ten of the 38 already had siblings being seen in the dental clinic.



Environmental Health

Food and Lodging

Food and Lodging staff worked understaffed during FY2014-15 because of an Environmental Health Specialist position vacancy. This made completion of 100% of quarterly inspections impossible to accomplish.

In addition to daily inspections, there have been several lead investigations involving proposed child care centers during the year. The childhood lead poisoning prevention program is in the process of shifting from the food & lodging program to the on-site waste water program. Two on-site waste water staff became authorized in childhood lead poisoning prevention during FY2014-15. In October 2014, Staff began training an Environmental Health Sanitarian (EHS) Intern. The EHS intern obtained the Food & Lodging authorization at the close of the FY2014-2015.

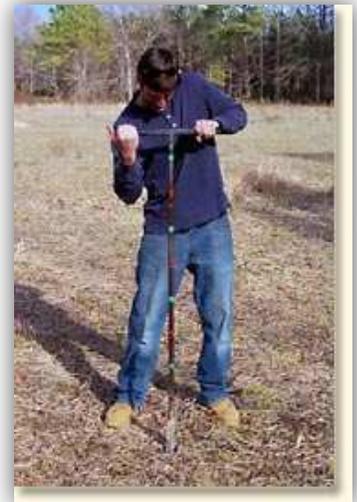
Trends noticed by staff for FY2014-15 include:

- As mentioned above many establishments were not inspected at the required frequency. Consequently Food and Lodging staff have noted that an establishment's next inspection often resulted in lower than normal score. This underscores the importance of meeting required inspection guidelines.

On-site Waste Water

On-site Water staff continue to experiment with the use of GPS/GIS technology. GPS units help staff capture the location of existing and new septic systems and wells to create an ongoing database. Having access to these locations make it possible for new site evaluations to be performed more efficiently. This has historically been done by hand with probe rods, which is time consuming and labor intensive, especially during the drier summer months when the ground is difficult if not impossible to probe.

In addition, staff are documenting new septic and repair areas throughout the county on the GIS database. This allows for the capability of locating areas in the field to a very high degree of accuracy, which is helpful when site conditions change. This information is also used when performing site evaluations in areas near previously approved areas. It gives staff the capability of evaluating new areas without possibly encroaching into an already permitted area.



As of FY2014-15, all on-site staff have been authorized by the state to permit and inspect public swimming pools. During the year, one of the staff received certification as a national pool operator. This training incorporates a much higher degree of understanding of pool chemistry and aides as a valuable resource for troubleshooting problems that may arise when helping the local pool operators maintain their pools.

Lastly, two On-site Water staff received state authorization in the Childhood Lead Program. Three additional staff will be trained and authorized, however, due to the lengthy class and authorization process, it may take a couple of years before all staff can be authorized.

Health Education

This year, the health educator, with assistance from a Masters of Public Health student intern began work for the healthy corner store initiative. The USDA Food Access Research Atlas was utilized to determine that part of the southeastern area of Randolph County is located in a food desert. Therefore, this area was the focus of the first healthy corner store. *A food desert is defined as: urban neighborhoods and rural towns without ready access to fresh, healthy and affordable food.*



An assessment was conducted in March using the Nutrition Environment Measures Survey. The survey was used to identify ways to promote and enhance healthful items within the store. Some suggestions for improvement included: placing fresh produce at the front of the store, purchasing low-fat milk and baked chip varieties and offering low sodium options of canned vegetables.

Marketing items and display materials were purchased and distributed to the stores owners. A follow-up contact was made by the health educator to determine if the initiative has been successful. To date, healthier options such as fresh produce, low-fat milk and baked chips are selling well. Future plans are to work with additional store owners to expand this initiative in other areas of the county.

WIC

This year, staff of the Randolph County WIC Program brainstormed a brilliant way to promote good nutrition and the importance of eating fruits and vegetables. They devised a plan to offer free planted fruit and vegetable seedlings to families and to plant a demonstration garden. They worked with Dezern Farms, local farm vendors to provide the seedlings and help plant the garden.

Five hundred seedling plants were delivered every other Monday from May through August, for a total of 3,000 plants. Seedlings consisted of tomatoes, lima beans, cucumbers, peppers and watermelon. On the Monday's the plants were delivered WIC staff divided into teams to transfer the seedlings to larger, more sustainable containers. Additional potting soil was purchased for use in the larger pots, as well as a watering hose to keep the plants hydrated in the summertime heat.

The seedlings were distributed along with packets that included recipes, nutrition information and growing instructions to WIC participants. In addition, WIC Nutritionists helped clients set nutritional goals to assist families with increasing their consumption.

Next, came the planning of the garden. Volunteers brought in loads of dirt, tilled the ground and planted the seedlings. The plants consisted of zucchini, squash, peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers.

The entire WIC staff worked daily in teams to keep the garden watered, weeded and healthy. The size of the garden was expected to produce about 400 pounds of food. All produce yielded from the garden was offered free to WIC participants as they visited the WIC office.



Many of the clients participating in the WIC Program have limited knowledge of the benefits of fresh produce and how to prepare it. Others have limited access because they reside within a food desert. The response to the produce program has been well received and appreciated by clients.

Plans are in the development stage to plant a fall garden. Plants such as cabbage, turnips, broccoli and other cool-season vegetables will be incorporated. The overall goal is to spread the word about good nutrition and to show visitors that the growing season can be extended past summer months.

Women's Health

Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP)

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) participated with Randolph Hospital on August 23 and October 18, 2014 to offer free mammogram screening clinics. These clinics were held for women who have never had a mammogram, those who had not had one in several years and for those who had no means to pay for a mammogram. Sixty-three (63) women received clinical breast exams. As a result, mammograms were provided for 51 women, and of those, one (1) positive breast cancer was diagnosed.

During October 2014, health department staff had various fundraisers to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month. These events were held each Friday throughout the month and consisted of raffles, a bake sale, a pet photo contest and a Pink o' Ween Snack Day. A total of \$1,520 was raised and donated to the Randolph Hospital Mammogram Fund. BCCCP was funded to screen 159 women during FY2014-15. Sixty-six percent (66%) or 105 women actually received screening for cancer. Out of those, five (5) were diagnosed with breast cancer. The number of women going through BCCCP decreased 34% from the previous year despite outreach attempts made by the program.

Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program Client Summary			
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Contracted client caseload	163	159	159
Number of clients screened	158	157	105
Percent of assigned caseload served	97%	99%	66%
Clients greater than or equal to 50	116 (73%)	103 (66%)	61 (58%)
Clients less than or equal to age 49	47 (29%)	54 (34%)	52 (50%)
50% Clients greater than or equal to age 65	0	0	2
Number of clients diagnosed with breast cancer	6	5	5
Number of clients diagnosed with cervical cancer	1	0	0

Family Planning

The number of family planning clients served during FY2014-15 decreased slightly by 1.3% from the previous year. The largest decline was seen in the number of Hispanic clients receiving services, which decreased by 77 women.

This year, the total number of clients seen in Family Planning was 1,242. Out of those 694 women were provided with a long-term method of birth control.

Method	Number of Clients
Oral Contraceptive	459
Depo Provera (an injection lasting for 3 months)	250
Intrauterine Device (IUD) (can last anywhere from 3-10 years depending on the device used)	118
Nexplanon (a birth control implant that lasts 3 years)	117