

Highlighting Health



Orange County Health Department Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2009-2010



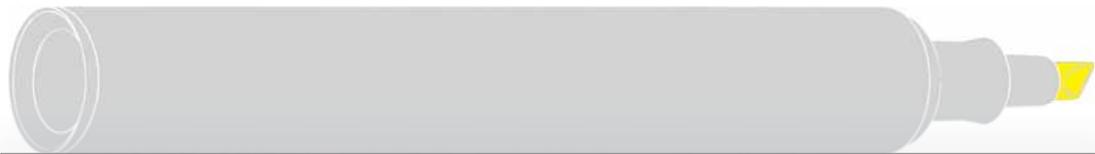
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Mission and Core Functions

The Orange County Health Department’s mission is to enhance the quality of life, promote the health, and preserve the environment for all people in Orange County. We strive to meet this mission by performing the following core functions:

- (1) Preventing and intervening in epidemics and the spread of disease
- (2) Protecting against environmental hazards
- (3) Promoting safe and healthy behaviors
- (4) Assuring quality and accessible health services
- (5) Assuring compliance with laws and regulations that protect health and safety



This annual report presents the Orange County Health Department’s financial and program outcomes for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. As illustrated, health department staff use many instruments to highlight and enhance the public’s health. Some of our everyday tools include yellow Post-it notes, highlighters, dental lamps, otoscopes for ear exams, flashlights for inspections, LCD projectors, and plenty of those “bright idea” light bulbs.



A Message from the Orange County Health Director Meeting the Challenges and Taking Pride in Our Work

At the end of the 2009-2010 operating year, we are particularly proud of Orange County Health Department staff who rose to the many challenges. Not only were there challenges of a poor economy and reduced programs and staff, but we had to continue the response to protect the community from the spread of the H1N1 virus and institute new software to track statistics for the state.

To meet required service demands, we unfortunately, had to discontinue some services that were previously offered. Examples of this include in-home air quality assessments, consultation on pest management, community-based HIV testing, general health education programs for community groups and others.

After a great deal of study, the Orange County Board of Health recommended to the Board of County Commissioners the consolidation of dental clinical services to a single location in Hillsborough to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the limited staff that are available to provide these non-mandated services. The Board also recommended a long-term approach that included adding dental staff and restoring a dual service model when affordable for the county.

Medical and dental programs both saw more clients who had lost their employment and their health insurance coverage.

On a Saturday in November 2009, the Health Department held a mass vaccination clinic that provided 1,830 H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccinations in less than six hours. The line, which wrapped around a sizeable portion of Cedar Ridge High School in Hillsborough, moved fairly quickly by some accounts and calmly. This would not have been possible without assistance from our many community partners and our fabulous Public Health Reserve Corps and Community Emergency Response Team volunteers.



We hope that you, as a community member, are as proud as we are of the Health Department staff members who rose to all of the challenges of the year with grace, style, and commitment to serving our residents.

Sincerely,

Rosemary L. Summers, DrPH
Orange County Health Director

Central Administration Services Division

Central Administration Services provides financial and information management services to Orange County Health Department staff. Major responsibilities of the Division include internal fiscal management, overseeing accounts payable tasks, administrative support, and processing vital records.

2009-2010 Financial Report

Category	Amount
General Fund County Appropriation	\$4,887,271
Revenues	
State and Federal Funds	\$797,983
Medicaid Revenues	\$724,862
Patient Fee Revenues	\$247,136
Regulatory Fees	\$310,998
Grant Funded Projects	\$419,500
Total	\$7,387,750

Vital Records Processing

The Orange County Health Department reviews all county birth and death certificates for accuracy before they are filed with the North Carolina Vital Statistics Branch and made available through the Orange County Register of Deeds.

Category	Outcome
Birth Certificates Processed	3,857
Death Certificates Processed	1,427



Highlighting Our Success

Proud Accomplishments and Future Focus Areas. The health department faced many challenges during the year including program losses, budget cuts, and staffing shortages. We persevered and continued providing services to meet the health needs of people in Orange County.

During our July 2010 All Staff-Meeting, the health director asked staff to highlight department accomplishments from Fiscal Year 2009-2010 and possible focus areas for the coming year. Using yellow Post-it notes, staff members “tooted horns” for colleagues, divisions, programs, and the overall department. Staff also noted areas that deserved additional attention. We had over 70 notes by the end of the meeting.

The health director read accomplishments and focus areas out loud. For accomplishments, staff mentioned programs such as the Orange County Diabetes Self-Management Education Program and the Postpartum/Newborn Home Visiting Program. Staff recognized new innovations to enhance productivity like the department’s use of an online training system and Spanish-language web pages. Focus areas included improving internal communication and applying for grants to support services.

See page 17 for a photo illustration of this activity.

Staff Highlight

Pam Dunn
Deputy Registrar

About Your Public Health Career:

I began in Early Intervention over 30 years ago working with children ages 0-3 with developmental delays, diagnosed disabilities or who were medically fragile. I did this for 17 years before moving to North Carolina. I began working for the Orange County Health Department in 1999 as the Health Check Coordinator and in 2010, I became the department’s Deputy Registrar for Vital Records. The common factor in all of these positions has been working with families.

About Your Current Role:

As Deputy Registrar, I process Affidavits of Parentage establishing paternity, burial transit permits, letters of non-contagious disease, disinterment/reinterment permits, and corrections to death certificates.



Likes and Challenges:

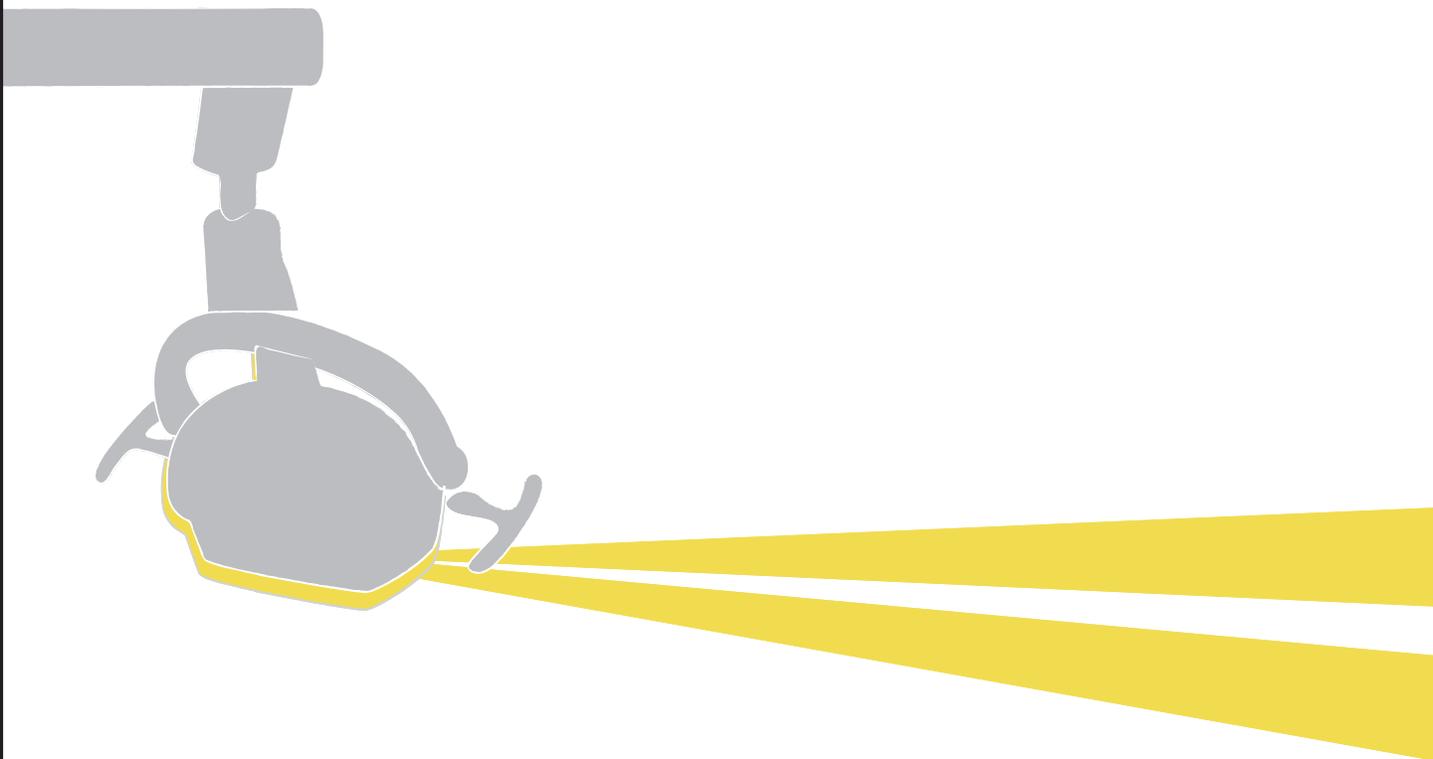
One of my biggest challenges is working with outside agencies to get appropriate documentation to make corrections to death certificates; however, I enjoy all the different people I get to interact with and the fact that no two days are ever the same!

Dental Health Services Division

The Dental Health Services Division provides low-cost dental care to adults and children living in Orange County. Clinical services are available to residents during the week by appointment. Screening and educational services are provided in a variety of settings including childcare centers, schools, and community health events. Our core dental health staff includes one full-time dentist, a part-time dental hygienist, four dental assistants, and two office assistants. The health department also contracts with a dentist and with the UNC School of Dentistry for a Graduate Program Dental Resident to provide treatment services.

Major Outcomes

- Dental Health Services had a total of 4,126 patient visits during the year.
- Dental Health Services had a total of 542 new dental patient visits.
- Dental Health Services educated 2,332 pre-school children, school-age children, and adults about oral health.
- Dental Health Services had 481 dental emergency patients.
- Dental Health Services provided dental screenings to 1,381 fifth graders.
- Dental Health Services provided dental screenings to 1,164 kindergartners.
- Dental Health Services provided dental screenings to 1,399 Smart Start pre-school children of which 81 (.05%) had dental needs.
- Dental Health Services placed 2,044 sealants on teeth to prevent tooth decay.



Highlighting Our Success

Project Homeless Connect. In September 2009, Dental Health staff participated in the Third Annual Project Homeless Connect. Orange County Housing and Community Development organizes Project Homeless Connect each year to offer a range of services to people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Human service agencies from across the county participate.



Dental staff began treating a male participant during the event, but could not provide all of the necessary services during this initial visit. Staff rescheduled the participant for further treatment in the Carrboro and Hillsborough dental clinics.

The participant successfully attended appointments at both sites. At the end of his care, he told staff the experience was a “life changing event.” He could now smile and was no longer self-conscious about his teeth and felt more determined to look for work to help end his cycle of unemployment and homelessness.

Staff Highlight

Charyl Allison, CDA
Clinical Dental Assistant

About Your Public Health Career:

I am a Certified Dental Assistant and I can't imagine a more rewarding career! I have the opportunity to positively shape the patient's view of dentistry. It is not uncommon for children and adults to be anxious in the dental office. It's my goal to present things in understandable terms to distract them from their fears.

About Your Current Role:

Dental assistants play an integral part in providing oral health care. At chair side, the dental assistant transfers instruments and materials to the dentist while operating evacuation equipment and applies prescribed dental materials within the oral cavity. Dental Assistants also take, process, and mount radiographs (X-rays); take medical histories; and monitor vital signs.



Likes and Challenges:

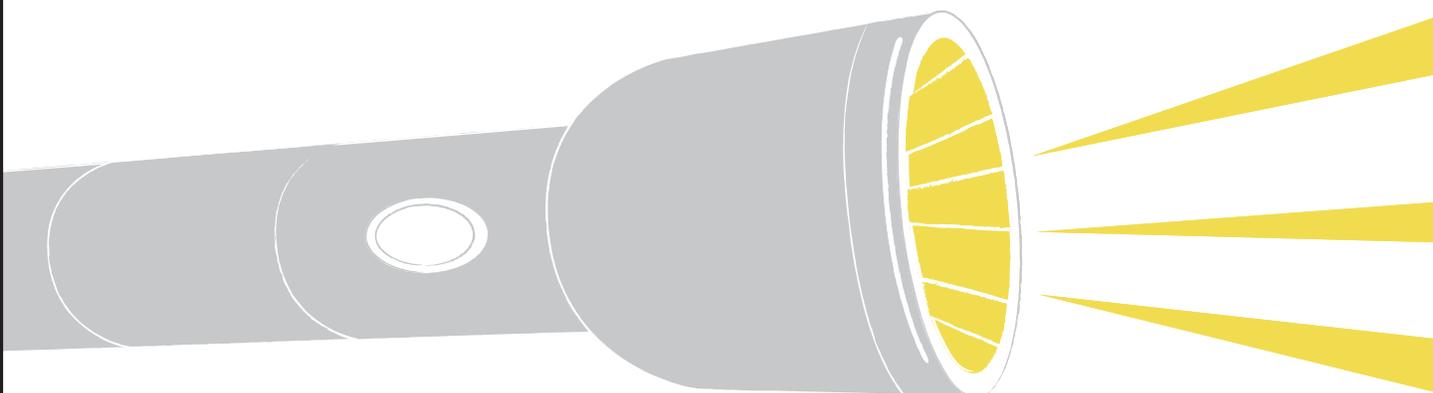
What an honor to have young patients grow up, have children of their own, and bring them to see me just as I saw them when they were young. As a Dental Assistant, my duties are numerous, but I believe the most important part is to win my patients over to have a patient for life!

Environmental Health Services Division

Environmental Health Services has four main areas: Food and Lodging Inspections; Well Construction and Water Sampling; On-site Wastewater; and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention. Food and Lodging staff permit and inspect places that prepare food for sale to the public to identify conditions that might lead to foodborne illness. Well Construction and Water Sampling staff permit and inspect construction of wells to ensure a safe drinking water supply and protect groundwater resources. Water samples are also collected to help identify contaminated drinking water sources. On-site Wastewater staff oversee the installation, maintenance, and operation of septic systems. The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program identifies environmental sources of lead and assures removal of the hazards when children with elevated lead levels are identified.

Major Outcomes

- Environmental Health Specialists conducted 630 inspections of existing septic systems through the Wastewater Treatment Management Program. The Specialists visited residential septic systems to evaluate maintenance needs and overall operation of the system.
- Well Program staff permitted 221 new wells and coordinated the proper closure of 26 abandoned wells.
- Environmental Health staff inspected and permitted 120 public swimming pools.
- Food and Lodging staff conducted 1,098 establishment inspections (an increase from last year).
- There were no cases of elevated lead levels in children identified as needing an environmental investigation.
- There were no significant foodborne outbreak investigations this year.
- There were no product recalls that prompted a targeted response by Environmental Health staff this year.





Highlighting Our Success

Quality Improvement 101. Several staff members participated in the North Carolina Division of Public Health's Quality Improvement 101 Program. The eight-month program began in February 2010 and consisted of an intensive series of meetings, webinars, and face-to-face workshops. The health department's team focused on improving declining collection rates of Wastewater Treatment Management Program inspection fees.



Team members included Greg Grimes (Environmental Health Program Specialist), Tom Konsler (Environmental Health Director), Albert Mills (Environmental Health Program Specialist), Barbara Hawksworth (Environmental Health Technician), and Carla Julian (Quality Improvement/Risk Manager). The health department's Accounting Technician, Cheryl Gilmer, also assisted as needed.

The team accomplished several objectives including improving written communication tools such as notices, inspection reports, and invoices. The Wastewater Treatment Program increased collection rates by 50 percent by the end of the project. The team will help staff apply quality improvement principles learned to other health department projects.

Staff Highlight

Barbara Hawksworth
Environmental Health Technician

About Your Public Health Career:

I wanted to do something to keep people from getting sick and earned an Associate of Applied Science degree from Western Wisconsin Technical College. I began working for the Orange County Health Department in 2001 as an Environmental Health Technician.

About Your Current Role:

I support the Water Sampling Program in the Environmental Health Services Division. My work involves public education, surveillance, consultation, and inspection. I provide water sampling services and water treatments. I also log location of sampling points using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology.



Likes and Challenges:

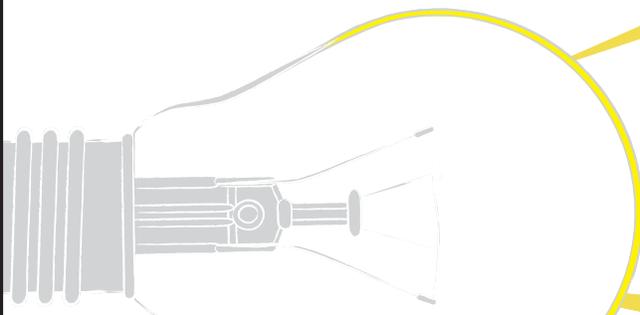
I enjoy meeting all the wonderful citizens in Orange County. They really appreciate the education we provide regarding their drinking well water. Weather can be a challenge. Cold weather, heavy rain, and extreme heat can hinder the work that needs to get done, but I always track weather conditions, dress properly, and have plenty of water on hand.

Health Promotion & Education Services Division

The Health Promotion and Education Services Division partners with community groups and agencies in the county often providing technical assistance with health advocacy, policy change, and program development. The Division also provides community health education, nutrition counseling services, public health data (e.g. the Community Health Assessment), and internal assistance with health promotion and communication. The following programs comprise Health Promotion and Education Services: Healthy Carolinians of Orange County, Health Communication, Health Promotion, Immigrant and Refugee Health, Nutrition Services, and Orange County Tobacco. Reality. Unfiltered. (TRU).

Major Outcomes

- The Nutrition Services Program had many program successes including completing Medical Nutrition Therapy protocol updates, becoming providers for third-party reimbursement entities (BCBSCNC, Medicare, and Cigna), and developing the Diabetes Self-Management Education Program's infrastructure.
- The Immigrant and Refugee Health Program organized learning opportunities around refugee health including a community refugee resettlement panel presentation and World Refugee Day awareness activities.
- Healthy Carolinians of Orange County Partnership coordinated a Period of PURPLE® Crying training for area childcare providers to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome. Forty-three participants received training.
- The Orange County TRU Program remained active in area high schools with peer educators conducting Tobacco 101 presentations for over 600 middle school students. Post-presentation evaluations found that 96% of students who attended the presentations felt tobacco use harmed a person's health.
- Language coordinators facilitated over 100 translations for staff to ensure clear communication from English to Spanish, Burmese, and Karen.
- The health communication specialist implemented several health communication projects during the year including a full-scale social marketing campaign for the Diabetes Self-Management Education Program and a series of audio Public Service Announcements called *Health e-Radio*.



Highlighting Our Success

Diabetes Self-Management Education. According to local Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey data, more than half of Orange County residents diagnosed with diabetes have not participated in a diabetes management program. This statistic shows that many residents with diabetes are not getting the care and education needed to manage their disease.



Completion of a Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME) program has been shown to improve diabetes knowledge, self-care behaviors, blood glucose levels, and overall quality of life for people with diabetes. The Nutrition Services Program implemented the Orange County DSME Program in September 2009 to increase access to diabetes education and help adults with type 2 diabetes better manage their disease. Program participants receive 10-hours of group education led by registered dietitians, registered nurses, and other qualified health care professionals. Follow-up counseling and support are also provided. The DSME program received recognition by the American Diabetes Association in July 2010 for meeting national standards for diabetes education.

Forty-three participants enrolled in the program during the first program year. Ninety percent of those who completed all program components showed improved A1C (blood glucose) levels while 88 percent reported conducting self-foot exams. Program evaluations also show improved knowledge of meal planning, exercise, stress management, medication management, and prevention of long term complications.

Staff Highlight: Awards Received

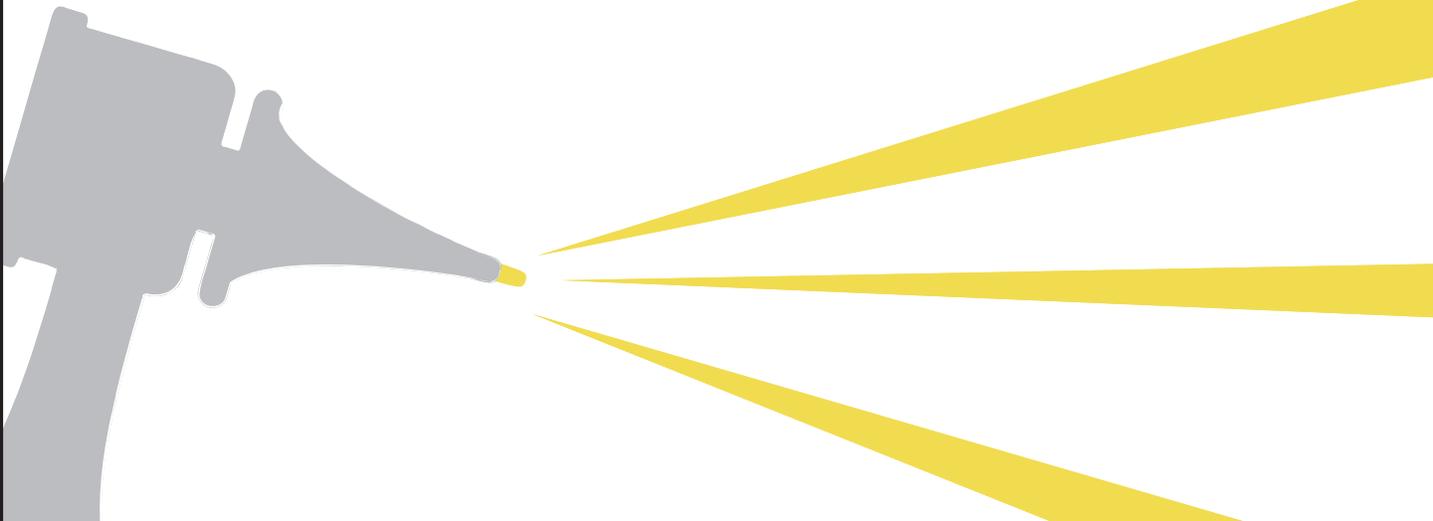
- The **Orange County TRU** Program received the 2009 Kathy Kerr Outstanding Health Education Project Award from the NC Society for Public Health Education.
- Immigrant and Refugee Health Program Manager, **Susan Clifford**, was accepted into the Jim Bernstein Community Health Leadership Fellows Program for 2009-2011.
- The **Nutrition Services Program** received a two-year grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust to fund the DSME Program.
- The **Health Communication Program** received a first place Excellence in Communications Award from the NC Association of Government Information Officers in the category of Campaigns and Media Kits for the Eat Smart, Move More Orange County Campaign Toolkit.
- The **Healthy Carolinians of Orange County Partnership** worked with partners to secure \$51,720 in multi-year grants.
- The **Orange County DSME Program** received recognition by the American Diabetes Association in July 2010 for meeting national standards for diabetes education.
- A team of five staff members from Health Promotion and Personal Health Services completed the **UNC Management Academy for Public Health**. The team received a full scholarship covering tuition costs.

Personal Health Services Division

Personal Health Services consists of three sections: Clinical Services, Community Health Services, and Family Home Visiting Services. The Clinical Services Section offers preventive and diagnostic care through its Chapel Hill and Hillsborough clinics. Major services include family planning, prenatal care, well-child services, primary care, and STD diagnosis and treatment. The Community Health Services Section provides communicable disease investigation and control. This section also manages potential human rabies exposures and provides immunizations, child care health consultation, and refugee health services. The Family Home Visiting section provides care coordination services for prenatal patients and children who have or are at risk for developmental delays. Nurses and social workers also provide newborn-postpartum home visits; an intensive home visiting program to prevent child abuse and neglect; and psycho-social counseling.

Major Outcomes

- Served 1,010 family planning clients of which 107 were teenagers.
- Provided primary care services to 423 clients through 716 clinic visits.
- Administered 6,799 Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) tests of which 136 (2%) were positive.
- Investigated and managed all 956 reportable communicable disease cases including two Norovirus outbreaks.
- Increased the percentage of refugees receiving communicable disease screening within 30 days of arrival in the county to 74% from 61%.
- Provided 1,827 Child Service Coordination encounters to serve 300 children who had or were at risk for developmental delays.
- Provided Maternal Care Coordination services (i.e. counseling, education, and referral) to 235 Medicaid-eligible pregnant women.



Highlighting Our Success

Helping Families. In Fall 2009, a social worker in the Families In Focus Program enrolled a family of three into the program. The family consisted of a mother and father and their two-week old son. During several home visits, the social worker noticed the mother was withdrawn and did not communicate openly, so she talked with the couple about postpartum depression and its symptoms.

After continued home visits, the mother slowly began to share feelings of isolation. As a first step in addressing this concern, the social worker designed a basic walking program that the mother and baby could do together. This activity would not only help her spend time outdoors, but also improve the child's development. The mother began walking and, at the urging of her spouse, eventually asked for additional help for her symptoms of depression.

The social worker made an appointment with El Futuro's mental health clinic and accompanied the mother to her first visit. After receiving treatment from El Futuro, the mother recognized a positive change in her outlook on life. The social worker observed the mother being more focused during home visits and spending more time interacting with her child and guiding him in play activities.



Staff Highlight

Kathy Glasscock, RN
Clinical Nursing Supervisor

About Your Public Health Career:

I have done just about every aspect of public health nursing possible. I began working for the Orange County Health Department in 1981 as the School Health Coordinator and not only led that program, but also served as an on-site school nurse in both school systems. During that time, I worked all clinics and communicable disease when needed. I later became the Nursing and Allied Health section supervisor where I supervised clinic, school, and home visit nurses. In those days, nurses did a bit of everything.

About Your Current Role:

I manage nine programs (Family Planning, Child Health, Prenatal, STD, Primary Care, Laboratory, Pharmacy, and Medical Records/Management Support) and supervise 21 employees. I have responsibility for ensuring that programs have best practice policies and procedures and meet all state and federal requirements.



Likes and Challenges:

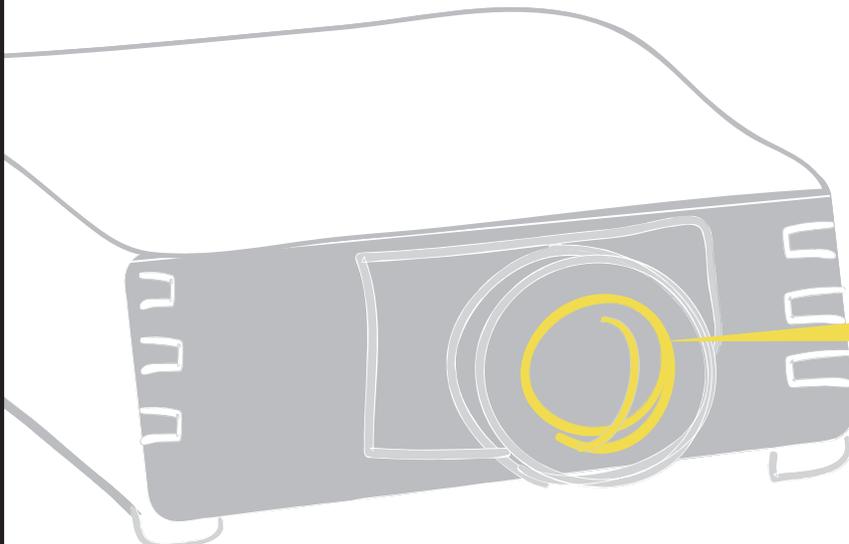
The most gratifying part of my career has been to feel like I have had a positive effect on most of the people I have supervised by helping them develop the unique skills to be a public health employee. I find that being an advocate for citizens' needs and staff needs helps me stay focused on what is truly important and guides my actions in challenging situations.

Quality Assurance/Risk Management Unit

The Quality Assurance/Risk Management Unit coordinates internal program audits, provides mandatory staff training, and ensures that employee safety programs are implemented. The Unit also houses the Orange County Health Department's public health preparedness coordinator and emergency response volunteer programs the Orange County Public Health Reserve Corps and Orange County Community Emergency Response Team.

Major Outcomes

- The Quality Improvement/Risk Manager conducted 21 internal program audits to ensure delivery of quality health services.
- The Public Health Preparedness Coordinator updated the health department's Strategic National Stockpile Plan and Continuity of Operations Plan in preparation for public health emergency response.
- The Public Health Preparedness Coordinator collaborated with the Orange County School System to provide Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools training for school Crisis Response Teams.
- The volunteer coordinator recruited 72 residents to the Public Health Reserve Corps bringing the volunteer count to 359 by the end of the fiscal year.
- Twenty-one employees of Sports Endeavors, Inc. (Hillsborough, NC) completed Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to become the first workplace CERT in the county.
- Emergency response volunteer programs received approximately \$31,000 in grant funding to continue volunteer training and program development efforts.



Highlighting Our Success

Volunteers Help Fight the Flu. The 2009-2010 influenza season created opportunities for volunteer involvement. The H1N1 pandemic prompted many Orange County residents to heed prevention messages and vaccination recommendations. Public Health Reserve Corps volunteers assisted with multiple flu-related projects to help provide immunizations.

One of the health department's initial concerns was vaccinating school-aged children against seasonal flu. The health department hired 11 Public Health Reserve Corps nurses as temporary, part-time staff to administer seasonal flu injections to children in grades three through eight throughout the county. With the help of this staff, over 1,400 children received seasonal flu shots.



In November 2009, volunteers participated in the health department's Vaccine for Youth Flu Clinic held at Cedar Ridge High School in Hillsborough. Volunteer pharmacists assisted with vaccine preparation and registered nurses helped administer vaccinations. The health department provided 1,183 H1N1 vaccinations (through injection or nasal spray) and 646 seasonal flu injections during this event. In January 2010, four volunteer pharmacists received training and certification to administer flu shots. This specialized training would help the county meet larger demands for flu vaccinations if needed.

Staff Highlight

Carla Julian, RN, MPH
Quality Improvement/Risk Manager

About Your Public Health Career:

I had been a nurse for many years and worked for hospitals, insurance companies, and law firms. I felt my career centered on helping people after prevention and quality improvement efforts could have made a difference in their lives. That's when I chose to turn my career to a population-based, preventative focus.

About Your Current Role:

Some of my primary responsibilities include quality improvement training and project facilitation; new employee orientation and training; occupational safety and risk management; and serving as the health department accreditation coordinator.



Likes and Challenges:

I enjoy always learning new things including how to be a leader for staff and management. Finding ways to motivate staff to engage in quality improvement efforts of their choice is at times challenging, but I overcome this by providing encouragement and facilitating short, focused meetings.

Highlighting combined public Health ex

We know, we know. Highlighting “combined experience” can be a little misleading. For instance, we could have 214 employees each with seven years of experience or 1,498 employees who have one year of experience. Combined experience could also mean work performed outside of the professional field being promoted. Fortunately, none of these scenarios apply to the Orange County Health Department’s 1,498 combined years of experience. Instead, we boast a modest staff of 89 employees whose time spent working in the public health field ranges between one and 36 years.

What this means. Our combined years of experience is a key ingredient to delivering health services to Orange County residents. Veteran staff, mid-level staff, and those who have recently entered the field often work together to accomplish departmental goals for meeting community health needs.

The following chart shows our years of combined experience by division.

Combined Public Health Experience by Division Orange County Health Department Staff		
Division	Staff Count	Combined Experience
Central Administration Services	6	122
Dental Health Services	8	114
Environmental Health Services	15	248.5
Health Promotion & Education Services	9	94.5
Personal Health Services	48	864
QA/Risk Management Unit	3	55
Total		1,498



our 1,498 years of experience...

and taking pride in our work!

We're Proud of Our Staff

Being part of a great team of people.

Proud
Not Losing People in tough times

Our staff has continued to provide quality care for our patients despite the stressful changes & transition made this year.



We're Proud of Our Programs



Health Check had one of the highest Participation rates ever! 85.6% an increase of 82

all of the off site HINI clinics that were provided throughout the county

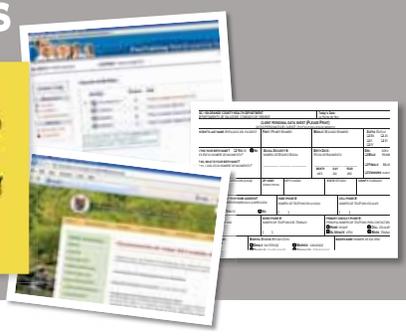
Receiving Recognition for DSNIE Program

We're Proud of New Innovations

Spanish OCHD webpages

we are proud of having ^{efficient} registration and financial form

online training software for Annual training (I ♥ this)



Orange County Board of Health

Orange County Board of Health members must meet certain qualifications [NCGS 130a-35(b)] and are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. Members may serve a maximum of two, three-year terms. The Board of Health has eleven members: one Orange County Board of Commissioner Representative, three At-Large Representatives, and one Professional Representative from each of the following fields: Engineering, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, Pharmacy, and Veterinary Medicine.

2009-2010 Board of Health Members

**Orange County Board of
Commissioner Representative**
Steve Yuhasz

Jessica Y. Lee, DDS, MPH
Dentist Representative
Term Expires 6/30/10

At-Large Representatives
Christopher Cooke, MA, MS
Term Expires 6/30/12

Christina Harlan, RN (Chair)
Nurse Representative
Term Expires 6/30/11

Anissa Vines, MS, PhD (Vice Chair)
Term Expires 6/30/12

Jim Stefandis, PharmD
Pharmacy Representative
Term Expires 6/30/10

Michael Wood, MS
Term Expires 6/30/11

Tony Whitaker, PE
Engineering Representative
Term Expires 6/30/12

Professional Representatives
DeWanna Anderson, DVM
Veterinarian Representative
Term Expires 6/30/11

Michael Carstens, OD
Optometrist Representative
Term Expires 6/30/12

Paul Chelminski, MD, MPH
Physician Representative
Term Expires 6/30/10

Continued Service: A Bright Future

Thank you for taking time to read this annual report. The Orange County Health Department looks forward to another year of serving the public health needs of Orange County residents. Our accomplishments during Fiscal Year 2009-2010 were the result of internal collaborations and partnerships with community organizations, health care professionals, neighborhoods, and individual residents. We will build on this work throughout the 2010-2011 year and continue delivering quality services so that every resident can live in a safe and healthy community.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the following individuals for their assistance in preparing this report:

Charyl Allison, CDA, Clinical Dental Assistant
Amanda Bartolomeo, Volunteer Coordinator
Letitia Burns, MBA, Business Officer
Susan Clifford, MSW, MPH, Immigrant and Refugee Health Coordinator
Angela Cooke, Former Dental Health Services Director
Michael Day, DDS, Orange County Dentist
Pam Diggs, MPH, Orange County Youth Tobacco Prevention Program Coordinator
Pam Dunn, Deputy Registrar
Kathy Glassock, RN, Clinical Nursing Supervisor
Kathleen Goodhand, MSW, Home Visiting Services Supervisor
Barbara Hawksworth, Environmental Health Specialist
Rebekah Hermann, RN, Family Home Visiting Coordinator
Anne Hill, Accounts Payable Supervisor
Carla Julian, RN, MPH, Quality Improvement/Risk Manager
Renee Kemske, MPH, RD, LDN, Nutrition Services Program Manager
Donna King, MPH, Health Promotion and Education Services Director
Betsy C. Knop, LCSW, Social Work Supervisor
Tom Konsler, RS, Environmental Health Services Director
Maxine Pendergraph, Personal Health Services Office Assistant
Nidhi Sachdeva, MPH, CHES, Healthy Carolinians Coordinator
Wayne Sherman, RN, MSPH, Personal Health Services Director
Lisa Smith, Administrative Assistant to the Health Director
Rosemary L. Summers, DrPH, Orange County Health Director

that all citizens in the State have equal access to essential public health services. The General Assembly declares that the mission of the public health system is to promote and contribute to the highest level of health possible for the people of North Carolina by: (1) Preventing health risks and disease; (2) Identifying and reducing health risks in the community; (3) Detecting, investigating, and preventing the spread of disease; (4) Promoting healthy lifestyles; (5) Promoting a safe and healthful environment; (6) Promoting the availability and accessibility of quality health care services through the private sector; and (7) Providing quality health care services when not otherwise available. (b) As used in this section, the term "essential public health services" means those services that the State shall ensure because they are essential to promoting and contributing to the highest level of health possible for the citizens of North Carolina. The Departments of Environment and Natural Resources and Health and Human Services shall attempt to ensure within the resources available to them that the following essential public health services are available and accessible to all citizens of the State: (1) Health Support: a. Assessment of health status, health needs, and environmental risks to health; b. Health education; c. Public health laboratory; d. Registration of vital events; e. Quality improvement; and (2) Environmental Health: a. Air quality; b. On-site domestic sewage disposal; c. Water and food safety and sanitation; and (3) Personal Health: a. Child health; b. Chronic disease control; c. Communicable disease control; d. Dental public health; e. Family planning; f. Health promotion and risk reduction; g. Maternal and child health; and (4) Public Health Preparedness. The Commission for Public Health shall determine specific services to be provided under each of the essential public health services categories listed above. (c) The General Assembly recognizes that there are health-related services currently provided by State government and the private sector that are important to maintaining a healthy social and ecological environment but that are not included on the list of essential public health services required under this section. Omission of these services from the list of essential public health services shall not be construed as an intent to prohibit or decrease their availability. Rather, such omission means only that the omitted services may be more appropriately provided by government agencies or private entities other than the public health system. (d) The list of essential public health services required by this section shall not be construed to limit or restrict the powers and duties of the Commission for Public Health or the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources and Health and Human Services as otherwise conferred by State law. (1991, c. 299, s. 1; 1997-443, s. 11A.54; 2007-182, s. 2; 2009-44, s. 130A-35. County board of health: appointment; terms. (a) A county board of health shall be the policy-making, rule-making and adjudicatory body of the county health department. (b) The members of a county board of health shall be appointed by the county board of commissioners. The board shall be composed of 11 members. The composition of the board shall reasonably reflect the population makeup of the county and shall include: one physician licensed to practice medicine in this State, one licensed dentist, one licensed optometrist, one licensed veterinarian, one registered nurse, one licensed pharmacist, one county commissioner, one professional engineer, and three representatives of the general public. Except as otherwise provided in this section, all members shall be residents of the county. If there is not a licensed physician, a licensed dentist, a licensed veterinarian, a registered nurse, a licensed pharmacist, or a professional engineer available for appointment, an additional representative of the general public shall be appointed. If how many of the designated professions has only one person residing in the county, the county commissioners shall have the option of appointing that person as a member of the general public. In the event a licensed optometrist who is a resident of the county is not available for appointment, then the county commissioners shall have the option of appointing either a licensed optometrist who is a resident of another county or a member of the general public. Except as provided in this subsection, members of a county board of health shall serve three-year terms. No member may serve more than two consecutive three-year terms unless the member is the only person residing in the county who represents one of the professions designated in subsection (b) of this section. The county commissioner member shall serve only as long as the member is a county commissioner. When a representative of the general public is appointed due to the unavailability of a licensed physician, a licensed dentist, a resident licensed optometrist or a nonresident licensed optometrist as authorized by subsection (b) of this section, a licensed veterinarian, a registered nurse, a licensed pharmacist, or a professional engineer, that member shall serve only until a licensed physician, a licensed dentist, a licensed resident or nonresident optometrist, a licensed veterinarian, a registered nurse, a licensed pharmacist, or a professional engineer becomes available for appointment. In order to establish a uniform staggered term structure for the board, a member may be appointed for less than a three-year term. (d) Vacancies shall be filled for any unexpired portion of a term. A chairperson shall be elected annually by a county board of health. The local health director shall serve as secretary to the board. (f) A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. (g) A member may be removed from office by the county board of commissioners for: (1) Commission of a fe

Highlighting Health



Orange County Health Department

Whitted Human Services Center
300 W. Tryon Street
Hillsborough, NC 27278
919-245-2400

Southern Human Services Center
2501 Homestead Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
919-968-2022

Environmental Health Services
131 W. Margaret Lane, Suite 100
Hillsborough, NC 27278
919-245-2360