

SKOKIE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FY15 ANNUAL REPORT



SKOKIE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Vision

Promoting A Healthy Community

Mission

Our mission is to work in partnership with communities we serve, to promote and protect human health, animal health and environmental health within the Village of Skokie.

Core Values

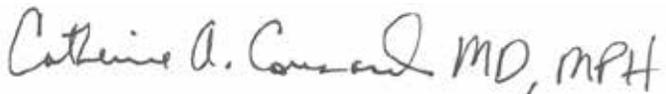
- Based on Science and Evidence
- Dedicated Professionals Providing High-Quality Service
- Concerned about Animals and the Environment
- Committed to Education, Innovation and Leadership
- Focused on Prevention

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

To the Skokie Community-

I am excited to share with you highlights of the Skokie Health Department activities over the past year. Our five-year goal of creating a welcoming, efficient workspace was realized with the completion of the new addition to Village Hall. The project also fulfilled our desire to share space with Human Services staff, as we strive to provide seamless services for residents. The Health Department continued work on major initiatives to ensure access to health care, reduce obesity, prevent tobacco use and develop an environmental sustainability plan for the Village. We are grateful for the support and participation of our community partners. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,



Catherine A. Counard, MD, MPH
Director of Health

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BACK ROW L-R

Bill Kok
Bruce Jones
Sue Reisberg
Cindy Starks
Shelley Wax

MIDDLE ROW L-R

Marianne Maggi
Dwayne McLin
Jackie Johnson
Claudia Braden
Dr. Catherine Counard

FRONT ROW L-R

Lillian LaSanta
Sameena Mohammed (Intern)
Darlene Codd
David Clough
Lori Kaplan
Penny Staffney

NOT PICTURED

Maricar Fernandez
Ryan Reconnu

BOARD OF HEALTH



FRONT ROW L-R	MIDDLE ROW L-R	BACK ROW L-R	NOT PICTURED
Swapna Dave, MPH, MBBS Nancy Topouzian, PhD, RN A. Michael Drachler, MD (Chair) Catherine Counard, MD, MPH (Staff) Patricia Urbanus, MSN, CNM Heidi Nickisch Duggan, MS, MA	Rohit Pandya, RPH Jessica Jones Thorne, MA William Werner, MD, MPH Zia Usman, DVM Romil Sood, DPT, MSM Habib Abbasi, RPT Milton Nidetz, MSW	Bruce Gaynes, OD, PharmD Michael Vernon DrPH David Clough, MPA (Staff) Larry Williams, Jr., DDS Margaret Langguth, MS, MBA, MT	Lesley Luka, DVM Clifford Prince, DDS Ruth Varma, RN Stanton Polin, MD, MHA Bruce Jones, MS, LEHP (Staff)

Activities

- **Instrumental in amending the Village of Skokie ordinance governing Smoking in Public Places to include Electronic Cigarettes as a tobacco product. (See page 9 for more)**
- **Lobbied the Illinois legislature to provide liability protection for Medical Reserve Corps members by amending the Good Samaritan Act (see page 10 for more)**
- **Served on the Skokie Medical Reserve Corps**
- **Volunteered at Community Flu Shot Clinics**
- **Served on the IPLAN Committee**



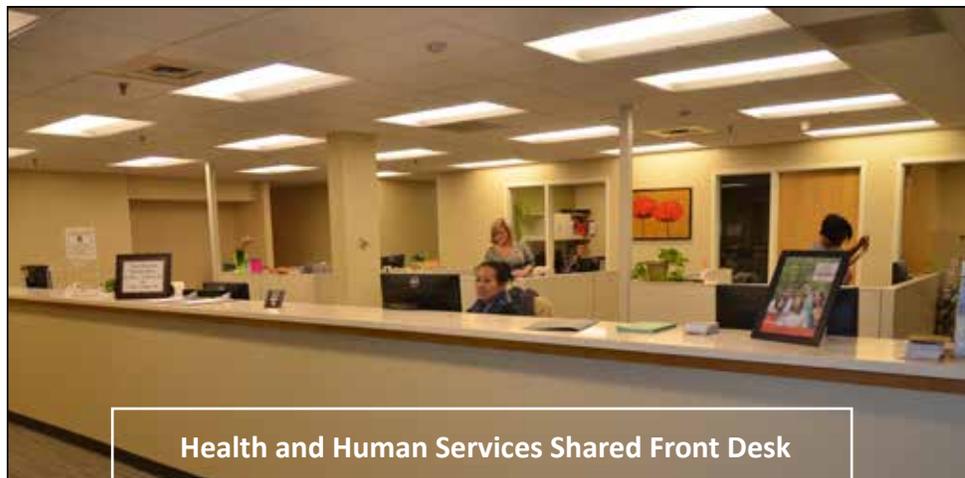
Sampling a healthy kale salad with Talking Farm board member Maria Alamo.

Dr. Drachler, Chair of the Skokie Board of Health, and Dr. Catherine Counard attended the 4th annual Talking Farm Hullabaloo. Ensuring access to healthy foods, as a means of combating obesity, is a priority of the *Skokie Community 2012 Health Plan*.

ADMINISTRATION

New Health and Human Services Shared Workspace

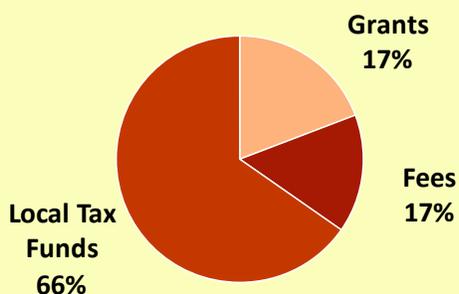
Creating a new shared workspace for Health and Human Services dominated the year, as Health Department staff were relocated twice to accommodate construction. The results are stunning, and greatly enhance our ability to provide coordinated services for the people we serve. As an additional key component of the project, the Animal Control and Environmental Health areas were remodeled to dramatically improve efficiency and customer service (page 9).



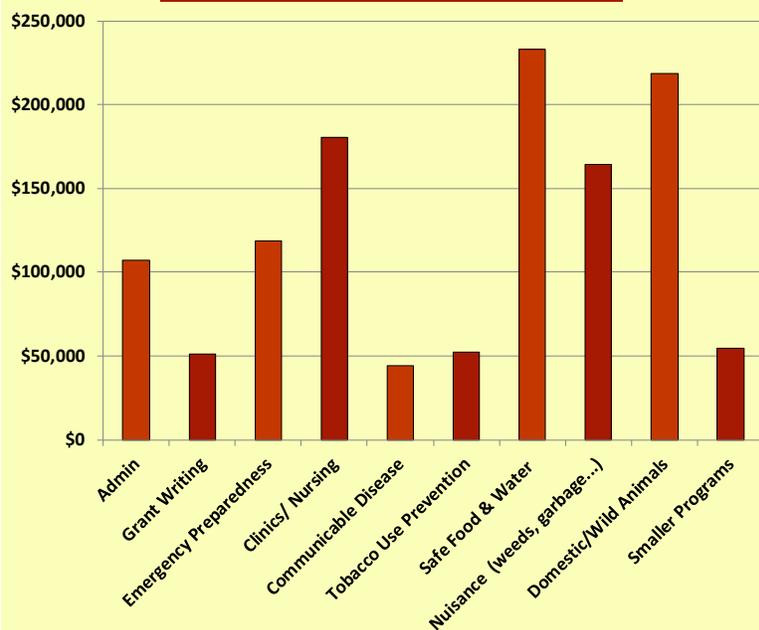
Tobacco Cessation Program at Turning Point

The Skokie Health Department collaborated with the Cook County Department of Public Health and **Turning Point Behavioral Health Care Center** to develop a comprehensive tobacco cessation program for Turning Point clients. People who struggle with mental health and substance abuse issues consume nearly half of all cigarettes sold in the United States. With the Skokie Health Department's help, Turning Point has linked staff to evidence-based tobacco cessation training, provided free "Courage to Quit" tobacco cessation classes, and enrolled with the **Illinois Tobacco Quit Line**. Turning Point clients now receive the help they need to stop using tobacco and extend the length and quality of their lives.

2015 Expenditures by Funding Source



Budget Expenditures by Program 2015



PERSONAL HEALTH

South Asian Health Town Hall Meeting

The **Health Department** and **Board of Health** co-sponsored a South Asian Health Town Hall event at the Skokie Public Library with a team from **Northwestern Medicine**. Community members engaged in a lively discussion answering questions such as “What does a healthy town or neighborhood look like?” and “How would you rate the health of the South Asian Community?” South Asians comprise 10 percent of the Skokie population and are four times more likely to have diabetes or heart disease.



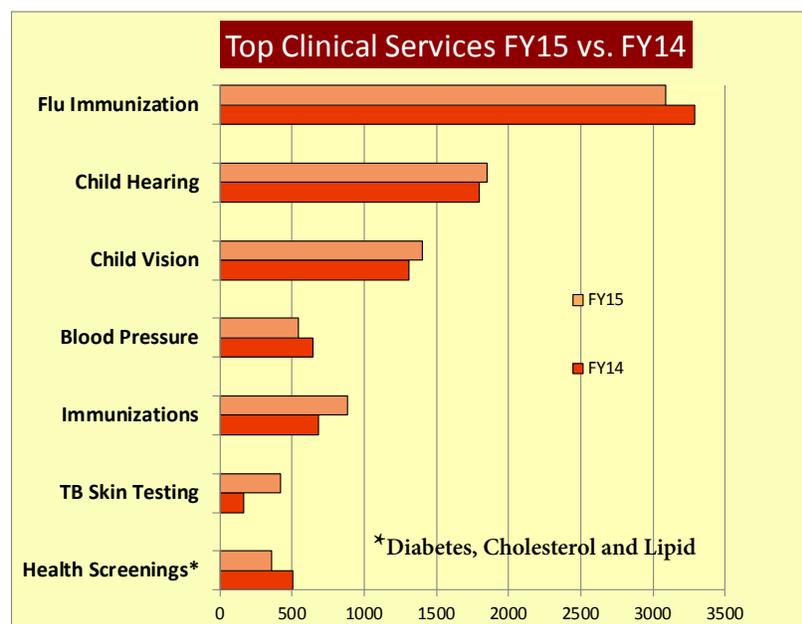
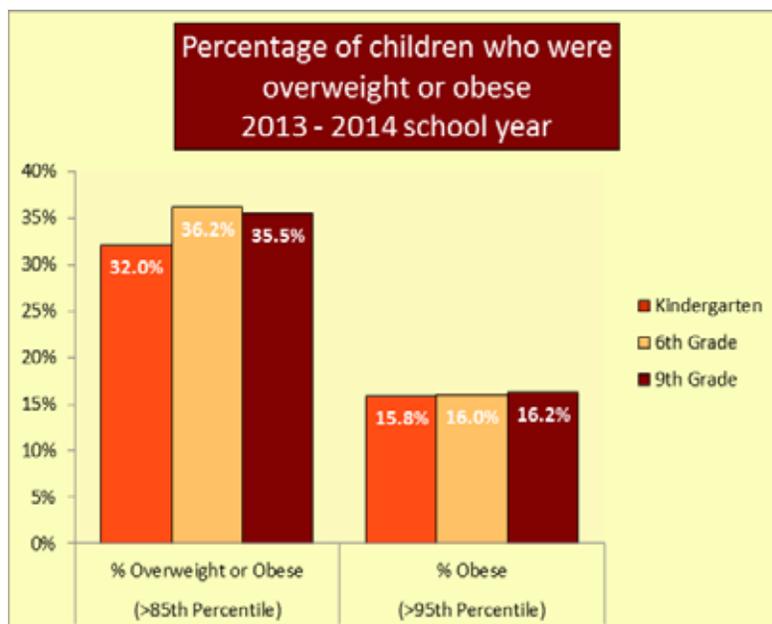
Back L to R: Meraj Baig, Shinu Mammen, Sue Reisberg, Jen Brown, and Manasi Jayprakash
Front L to R: Dr. Namratha Kandula, Dr. Swapna Dave and Dr. Catherine Counard



L to R: David Clough, Health Dept staff; Manasi Jayprakash, Northwestern Medicine; Rohit Pandya, Skokie Board of Health member.

Childhood Obesity Project

In order to establish obesity rates for Skokie children, the Health Department reviewed more than 2,000 public school physical forms of children in kindergarten, sixth and ninth grade to establish obesity rates. The study revealed that **one in three children** is either **overweight or obese** and **one in six is obese** which is similar to other areas in the country. We are working with schools, the park district and other entities to



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE/ VITAL RECORDS

Tough Year for Influenza

Ten adult Skokie residents became so ill with influenza (flu) this year that they needed to be admitted to an intensive care unit. *None of these residents had received the influenza vaccine.* Influenza spreads quickly among people who are not vaccinated and can cause serious illness in otherwise healthy people.

Each year there are large outbreaks of influenza in Skokie schools because students have not been vaccinated. The Health Department urges all residents over the age of six months to get a flu shot every year.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES CALENDAR YEAR 2014			
Sexually Transmitted		Vaccine Preventable	
Chlamydia	40	Hepatitis B, Chronic	30
Gonorrhea	7	Pertussis	5
Syphilis	2	Influenza Admit to ICU	10
Food Related		Varicella	3
Salmonella	13	Mumps	1
Shigella	1	Other	
Giardia	0	Hepatitis C, Chronic	29
E. Coli (STEC)	2	Tuberculosis, Active	1
Listeria	2	Legionella	0
International Travel Related		West Nile Virus	0
Malaria	1	Lyme	3
Dengue Fever	0	TOTAL 153	
Cryptosporidiosis	1		
Hepatitis A	1		
Cholera	1		

DEATHS for SKOKIE RESIDENTS 2010 - 2013

Age Range	Number of Deaths	Female	Male
Under 14	13	4	9
15 through 24	15	3	12
25 through 44	36	12	24
45 through 64	263	106	157
65 through 84	795	378	417
85+	978	592	386
TOTALS	2,100	1,095	1,005

Vital Records

Between 2010 and 2013, *cancer* and *heart disease* were the top two causes of death for Skokie residents starting at the age of 35. The main cause of cancer deaths in adults was *lung cancer*; 80 to 90 percent of lung cancers are caused by smoking. This means that many people are dying earlier than necessary from obesity and tobacco use. Both of these issues are being addressed by the Health Department through our *Skokie Community 2012 Health Plan*.

TOP CAUSES of DEATH WORKING AGE SKOKIE ADULTS 2010 - 2013

35 to 49	50 to 64	65 to 74
Cancer	Cancer	Cancer
Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Heart Disease
Unintentional Injury	Chronic Liver Disease	Stroke

TOP CAUSES of CANCER DEATHS ADULT AGE 35 - 74 2010 - 2013

Lung Cancer	42
Lymphoid Cancer	22
Liver Cancer	14
Breast Cancer	13

ANIMAL CONTROL

Emergency Services

Animal Control Officers (ACO) are available for emergency assistance year-round for trapped or injured wildlife, wildlife inside a home, holding a stray dog or cat and animal bite investigations. They are available to assist orphaned or injured wildlife and to conduct educational programs for community groups and Skokie schools.

A major challenge for our officers is reuniting lost pets with their owners. Many pets do not have proper collars with identification tags and are not micro-chipped for easy identification. Please take these steps to help us return your pet if it is lost.



“Rocky” the Flying Squirrel

A flying squirrel was running around and hiding behind furniture in a family home. ACO Lori Kaplan was able to capture the squirrel and release it into the back yard. The family was thrilled.



Cat rescued from car engine

“Pjeras” traveled from Palatine to Skokie in a car engine. ACO Ryan Reconnu was called by a man who said he heard meowing coming from under the car hood. Miraculously the cat was not injured, but it required 45 minutes to carefully extract it from the engine. The cat owner lives on the same block as the car owner and had reported *Pjeras* missing the prior day.

TOP WARNINGS

No Dog or Cat License	293
Dog off Leash	147
Failure to Pick up Dog Feces	46
Excessive Barking	43
Dangerous Animal	36

ACTIVITIES

Animal Bite Investigations	39	Warnings Issued	660
Wildlife to Rehabilitation	59	Citations Issued	51
Pets Returned to Owner	94	Wildlife Activities	650
Animals Relocated for Adoption	35	Domestic Animal Activities	653
Traps Issued	88	Dead Animals Removed	884

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Electronic Cigarette Ordinance

On April 6, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved amending the Village Code to prohibit the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems, including e-cigarettes, wherever smoking is prohibited. Dr. A. Michael Drachler, Board of Health Chair and Dr. Larry Williams, a national expert on tobacco cessation and a Board of Health member, presented the recommendation on behalf of the Board of Health. E-cigarettes are popular with teens, and the new law is another important measure to prevent youth from beginning tobacco use.



Workspace Remodeled

Fulfilling a five-year goal, the combined Environmental and Animal Control workspace was remodeled to dramatically improve efficiency and customer service.

Environmental Sustainability Plan

Creating an Environmental Sustainability Plan is a top goal of the *Skokie Community 2012 Health Plan*. This project was given a major boost when Professor Sherry I. Brandt-Rauf, a Skokie resident and faculty member of the *UIC School of Public Health Environmental Division*, offered to assist by focusing her spring environmental policy course entirely on drafting the plan.

As part of this work, the students interviewed members of the *Skokie Environmental Sustainability Commission*, and conducted a survey of 145 Skokie residents attending the annual "Spring Greening" event. Key staff from *Health, Planning* and *Public Works* met with students to hear their proposals and will continue this work until the plan is completed.

ACTIVITIES	
Construction Plan Reviews	70
Institutional Inspections	63
Pool Inspections/Re-Inspections	121
Solid Waste Inspections/Re-Inspections	179
Drinking Water Samples Taken	945
Food Service Inspections/Re-Inspections	1,630
Rat Sites	245
Warnings Issued (Weeds, Nuisance)	435
Citations Issued	106
West Nile Virus - Mosquito Samples Taken	645
WNV Positive Mosquito Samples	21

TOP CRITICAL FOOD SERVICE VIOLATIONS	
Foods at Improper Temperatures	368
Evidence of Plumbing Hazards	227
Improperly Stored/Labeling of Toxins	172
Presence of Insects or Rodents	163
Improper Sanitation of Utensils/Equipment	124

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Ebola Preparation and Exercise

The Village responded to the possibility of Ebola by establishing a high level multi-disciplinary team to develop policies and protocols that will be implemented if necessary. The **Health, Fire** and **Police Departments** successfully tested our ability to identify and safely transport a person ill with Ebola to Skokie Hospital. Prior to the test, all paramedics received education and training regarding Ebola infection, personal protective equipment and safe transport procedures.



Ebola patient care simulation at Skokie Hospital



Skokie Fire Department setting up for isolation ambulance



Skokie Fire Department dressed to care for Ebola patient during simulation

Medical Reserve Corps Liability Coverage - Amending the Good Samaritan Act

Governor Bruce Rauner signed into law SB 1498, important legislation amending the Good Samaritan Act that was initiated by the **Skokie Health** and **Fire Departments**. The law will protect Medical Reserve Corps members from personal liability when they assist local health departments during emergencies. **Representative Laura Fine** and **Senator Ira Silverstein** sponsored the legislation, and received overwhelming support throughout the 99th General Assembly, including unanimous votes by the legislators, and support from dozens of entities and hundreds of individuals. **The Skokie Medical Reserve Corps has 55 members** who are licensed physicians, nurses and pharmacists. These individuals can now volunteer to help the Health Department without concern about personal liability.

FY16 GOALS

During the Coming Year the Skokie Health Department will:

- **Continue collaborating with Human Services Staff to create a customer-friendly shared workspace.**
- **Work with the IPLAN Committee and other community partners to fulfill the goals established in the Skokie Community 2012 Health Plan.**
- **Begin the process of creating the 2017 community health plan, with a focus on health disparities.**
- **Seek additional grant funds to support and improve Health Department programs and services.**
- **All Health Department personnel will complete at least one training program pertinent to their job duties.**
- **Complete written policies and procedures for all Health Department divisions.**
- **Support and promote Board of Health initiatives during the year.**





Council-Manager Government

Mayor George Van Dusen

Clerk Pramod C. Shah

**Trustees Michele L. Bromberg
Karen Gray-Keeler
Ralph Klein
Randall E. Roberts
Edie Sue Sutker
Ilonka Ulrich**

Manager John T. Lockerby

Counsel Michael M. Lorge

