

History of ZMCHD from 1993-2001 Annual Reports

1993 Highlights

- Immunizations expand to include evening hours and satellite clinic sites.
- Plumbing backflow prevention program begins and is self-supporting.
- County-wide plumbing code is established.
- Staff labors during Shigella outbreak to treat those affected and identify cause of infection at Lake Isabella.

1994 Highlights

- Voters overwhelming pass 0.5 mil replacement levy.
- Breast cancer prevention program begins in conjunction with ten-county grant.
- Franklin Local School district contracts with ZMCHD for nursing services.
- Backflow prevention program extends to full-time status.
- Home health program begins serving children in need of home care.

1995 Highlights

- AIDS test sites expand to include Coshocton County.
- Adult Clinic opens two nights per week with great success.
- ZMCHD-sponsored Community Health Fair sets new record by both numbers of participants and attendees.
- Nursing services contract is established with Tri-Valley Schools.

1996 Highlights

- Dr. Charles Hawkins is hired as full-time dentist.
- Environmental division begins to implement new food service laws. No changes had been made to these laws in 40 years.
- ZMCHD becomes the fiscal agent for three new community enrichment programs: Family and Children First, PRO-Muskingum and Early Start.
- Health education program conducts compliance checks on 45 tobacco vendors for sales to minors.
- ZMCHD engages in many collaborative efforts with local agencies to enhance community services without increasing funds required.

1997 Highlights

- Adult clinic experiences significant growth, meeting needs of many people in community without other means of medical care. Adult clinic is staffed by 14 local physicians who volunteer their time to provide residents with quality medical attention.
- ZMCHD works with local colleges to provide on-the-job experience for student interns studying in health-related fields.
- ZMCHD provides 170 children in Muskingum County with 370 free immunizations at special clinic sites at Community Health Fair and McDonald's restaurant. These sites ensure availability of disease-preventing vaccinations for children in community.

1998 Highlights

- ZMCHD passes 0.5 mill 10 year replacement levy in May.
- At the request of the State Department of Commerce, ZMCHD contracts with Coshocton City, Guernsey County and Morgan County to conduct commercial plumbing inspections and plan reviews.
- Infectious disease nurses investigate, track and treat 20 positive cases of syphilis in Zanesville. No positive cases of syphilis had been reported in Zanesville in over 30 years.
- Mosquito complaint calls nearly triple, from 261 calls in 1997 to 697 calls in 1998.
- Dental Sealant program area expands to include Zanesville City Schools.

1999 Highlights

- Lice Control and Prevention program begins to send service coordinator into homes to assess needs of families with recurrent lice problems, provide education, medicated shampoos, vacuums, and actual removal of nits. Some children have missed up to 45 days of school because of lice infestation.
- Family Planning program begins to provide education and birth control to men and women primarily under age 25.
- Welcome Home program expands to include a second follow-up visit to moms with newborns in Muskingum County.
- Tattoo parlor inspections and licensing begins under new state regulations. Two parlors are licensed and one fly-by-night operation is kept out of the county.
- Social work program begins three classes to educate community members on parenting skills, dangerous relationships and smoking cessation.
- A web site is developed to make up-to-date health information and lists of services easily available to public.
- Inspections and testing expands of groundwater sources used for drinking requiring increased field time for staff.
- Changes are passed to move some current Ohio Department of Agriculture food inspections of food sellers to ZMCHD in 2001.
- Immunization program receives grant money to help bring services to more community outreach sites.
- Dry weather makes for dramatic drop in mosquito population. Complaint calls drop from 697 in 1998 to just 36 calls in 1999.
- Carl Spragg retires as Health Commissioner. He had served our county since 1981.

2000 Highlights

- Robert Titko accepts the position as Health Commissioner in January.
- Vicki A Whitacre, MD accepts the position as part-time Medical Director in February.
- The Muskingum County Juvenile Detention Center expands from 12 to 48 juveniles. As a result, a full-time nurse position is created.
- Charles Hawkins, DMD resigns as Dental Services Director. Hawkins had served Muskingum County since 1996. John Ney, DMD accepts the position in October.
- ZMCHD receives a Cardiovascular Health Grant to increase public understanding about heart disease.
- ZMCHD purchases a satellite dish with funding from the Ohio Department of Health to enhance communication with Ohio Health Alert Network. This network will notify local health departments in the event of natural or bio-terrorism disasters.
- State water well regulations that take effect in January now require documentation of periodic inspections of water well installations at various stages.
- Plumbing inspections are expanded to include all commercial businesses constructed or remodeled in Coshocton County.

2001 Highlights

- ZMCHD introduces Healthy Hearts of Morgan, Muskingum and Perry Counties, a group of agencies and interested people working to improve cardiovascular health of residents. This program is designed to create heart healthy communities by providing resources needed to make heart healthy choices.
- ZMCHD assumes licensing and inspections of retail food-related businesses. Previously, the Ohio Department of Agriculture inspected groceries, pharmacies and convenience stores.
- ZMCHD welcomes Vicki A Whitacre, MD as full-time Medical Director.
- Dr. Whitacre begins walk-in pediatric clinic and sees double the amount of patients.
- Dr. Ney begins walk-in dental clinic.
- The first bat to test positive for rabies in the past 13 years is found in, of all places, the home of health commissioner Robert Titko. The animal didn't bite anyone and no one received rabies shots.
- It's a historically significant and traumatic year after an attack on our country September 11, 2001. Locally, ZMCHD becomes involved when some people in Muskingum County start sending anthrax threats by mail, scaring many residents.