Dear Colleagues:

This has been a remarkable year for your health department, Linn County Public Health! We were recognized nationally for our accomplishments as the Local Health Department of the Year from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) as a medium size local health department, and construction began on a state-of-the-art Public Health building.

This year, NACCHO recognized us for our outstanding work as the Chief Health Strategist associated with an innovative technological platform. This platform allows healthcare, mental health and social services community partners to address the social determinates of health among the many needs of our residents. In October 2017, Linn County Public Health, along with fifteen initial community partners, implemented a community-wide closed-loop care coordination software program. Community partners are now able to refer clients to other organizations electronically, reducing the need for clients to provide their background and personal information at each of the agencies. Since the initial implementation, additional partners have been added to the system. More about this award can be found on page eight.

Meanwhile, we began working on yet another community health assessment and health improvement plan. A new community-wide health improvement plan is being finalized with the help of over two dozen community partners.

After a nearly five-year effort to house LCPH staff in a new building, the Linn County Board of Supervisors approved the construction of a new public health building. For this, we are grateful to the Linn County Board of Supervisors! We cannot wait to move into our new building. Our formal move-in date is scheduled in late 2019.

In order to provide public health services to our residents, Linn County Public Health continues to build a robust infrastructure, but our most important infrastructure is our workforce – our colleagues, who work 24/7 to ensure that our water, food and air are safe. Each of my team members, at each level, plays a vital role to advance public’s health in our county.

Several staff members were recipients of awards for their efforts. Sue Ellen Hosch was awarded the Environmental Health Professional of the Year by the Iowa Environmental Health Association. Julie Stephens was recognized by the University of Iowa College of Public Health as the recipient of the 2017 Iowa Public Health Hero award. Ruby Perin was a participant in a yearlong program with the Great Plains Leadership Institute. Brianna Gabel was selected for a fellowship through the International Food Protection Training Institute. NACCHO recognized Linn County Public Health and the City of Cedar Rapids for the “Solarize Cedar Rapids and Linn County” project as a “Promising Practice.” Jim Hodina received the National Environmental Health Association Affiliate Certificate of Merit for Iowa and Kaitlin Emrich was inducted into the University of Iowa College of Public Health Delta Omega Honor Society in Public Health.

A special thank-you goes out to the legislators from the State of Iowa. They passed an update to the Iowa Food Code, which included new food license fees. The food license fees had not been updated since 2008, which significantly underfunded our food inspection and enforcement efforts.

We welcome your comments and questions, either by calling us at 319-892-6000 or by emailing to us at health@linncounty.org. You can also follow LCPH on Twitter @LCPublicHealth or on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LCPublicHealth. You can also follow me on Twitter @pdwivedi9. Thank you!

Sincerely, Pramod Dwivedi, DrPH(c)
### Mission
To prevent disease and injuries, promote healthy living, protect the environment and ensure public health preparedness.

### Vision
Build a healthier Linn County

### Core Values
- Create a Supportive, Positive Work Environment
- Demonstrate Personal Integrity and Respect for Others
- Be Accountable for Our Actions and Decisions
- Communicate Openly and Effectively
- Recognize Valued Contributions
- Empower Teams to Develop Innovative Solutions

### Strategic Plan
- Expand & Enhance Partnerships
- Strengthen Internal & External Communication
- Data-Driven Policy Development & Implementation
- Enhance Organization Effectiveness

---

**Linn County Board of Supervisors**

Pictured (left to right): James Houser (vice chairperson), John Harris (chairperson), Brent Oleson, Stacey Walker, Ben Rogers

**Linn County Board of Health**

Pictured (left to right): Dr. James Levett, Dr. Mary Tarbox (vice chairperson), Leslie Wright, Mark Taylor (chairperson), Stacey Walker
LINN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Roles:

- Support the mission of public health
- Discuss health issues and concerns, solicit input and share plans for public health with business and community leaders
- Develop public health policy based on data and community input
- Assure compliance with legal responsibilities (Iowa Code/Iowa Administrative Code)
- Understand and support quality service provision and fiscal accountability

Board of Health Committees

Community Health Collaboration
BOH Liaison: Dr. James Levett, Dr. Mary Tarbox, Leslie Wright

The Community Health Collaboration Committee has the responsibility for reviewing the scope of community health activities ongoing or needed in the community, and for making recommendations to the Board and to the Health Director of opportunities for community collaborations in the general public health system or for programs and services under the purview of Linn County Public Health.

Finance and Administrative Review
BOH Liaison: Pramod Dwivedi

The Finance and Administrative Review Committee oversees the financial management of the agency, and make recommendations for improvement to the Board as appropriate. The committee also has responsibility for periodically reviewing the personnel policies of the agency and making recommendations to the Board as appropriate. It advises the Health Director on personnel matters and recommends approval for all budgeted positions in the agency. The Committee is advised by the Health Director of any personnel issues and grievances.

Policy and Government Relations
BOH Liaison: Stacey Walker, Mark Taylor

The Policy and Government Relations Committee has the responsibility for reviewing the annual work program and making recommendations to the Board as appropriate. It is responsible for evaluating all programs and services and recommending changes to the Board as appropriate. It oversees the agency’s quality assurance measures. The committee is responsible for seeing that the Board develops an annual strategic plan. It reviews proposed agency policies and make recommendations to the full Board. It considers the enactment of any Board policy or ordinance regulating the public’s health and makes recommendations to the full Board.
ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Quality Improvement

LCPH strives to include as many employees as possible in quality improvement. Two different day-and-a-half basic and intermediate training sessions were attended by nearly 45% of staff. Three projects were developed and started during these training sessions. They are:

1) Formalize student recruitment process
2) Managing external contacts and distribution lists
3) Contracts, grants and agreements workflow

Staff is encouraged to submit documentation on rapid cycle quality improvement projects that they have implemented. Six rapid cycle narratives were documented in FY18.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AQI Values for FY18</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>280 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>83 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups</td>
<td>2 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unhealthy</td>
<td>0 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Unhealthy</td>
<td>0 Days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strategic Plan

Following several months of development and refinement, the new three-year Strategic Plan was initiated in January 2018. The top five Strategies are below:

1) Accountability training and coaching
2) Establish sustainable funding approaches
3) Organize electronic file storage
4) Create communications expectation protocol
5) LCPH process for recognizing employee success

In addition, there are six other Strategies that have been prioritized and will be implemented as the top five Strategies near completion.

969 credit card transactions totaling $60,906

1,667 water samples tested

121,387 hourly observations from air monitoring equipment
COMMUNITY HEALTH

During year one of the state innovation model (SIM) grant, Linn County Public Health and the Community Care Coalition (C3) worked on development tools that targeted health system reform. The C3 voted to proceed with purchasing the TAVHealth, TAVConnect platform. In order to proceed with purchase and adoption of the care coordination platform, the C3 raised $108,000 to fund TAVConnect. Community partners designed the TAVConnect platform for specific community application. Work will continue to refine the TAVConnect platform and adapt to community partners and client needs in the near future.

Community Health Division staff continued to build local infrastructure for diabetes prevention, screening, and referrals through flexible funding structures, which support the diabetes subcommittee. LCPH staff, on behalf of the subcommittee, tested 82 individuals at outreach events and identified 26 (32%) with pre-diabetes or diabetes.

Worksite Wellness

The Linn County Worksite Wellness summit was held in June. Sixty-nine individuals from worksites around Linn County gathered to discuss best practices in employee health and wellness, and to learn how their worksite compared to area worksites- both large and small.

Assessment and Health Promotion continues to build local public health system data use capacity through syndromic surveillance, opioid data subcommittee and timely responsiveness to data requests.

Clinical Services initiated the Immigration and Refugee Health Program based on community partner’s needs. A change of status exam is required for refugees and immigrants looking to obtain green cards and legal citizenship in the United States. Exams include the required medical testing, immunizations, and examinations to gain citizenship. LCPH had 276 visits from those seeking these services. At this time, LCPH is the only health department in the state of Iowa that has the ability to provide this service. In addition, LCPH helps the refugee community complete required immunization services and the medical paperwork to obtain their green cards.

Linn County diabetes rate in 2016, down from 10.3% in 2013

Public Health Data Capacity

LCPH continues to expand capacity, specifically utilizing syndromic surveillance data, specifically in the topics of influenza like illness and opioids. LCPH received over 50 formal data requests, of which more than 75% were resolved within five business days.

A small sample of Linn County datasets being used:
- Syndromic surveillance
- United States Census
- Births and deaths
- Hospital inpatient and outpatient
- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Solarize Linn County & Cedar Rapids, a Solar Group Buy

Linn County Public Health, the City of Cedar Rapids, Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA), and a consortium of local held “Solarize Cedar Rapids & Linn County.” In 2017, 104 homeowners in Linn County took advantage of discounted solar pricing through a limited-time solar group purchase program. With additional federal and state tax credits, individual homeowners realized payback periods of eight years or less. The Solar Group Buy was recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials as a “Promising Practice.”

Twenty-three “Solar Power Hours” were held educating homeowners on the benefits of solar energy. Program partners actively promoted the event through social media, newsletters, neighborhood associations, poster distribution, and press releases. Media engagement led to numerous interviews resulting in seven major newspaper articles and television reports.

Linn County approval of the Lead Hazard Control Ordinance

In June of 2018, the Linn County Board of Health and the Linn County Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance for Control of Lead-Based Paint. This was the first update to the ordinance since originally adopted in May, 1979. The ordinance allows for public health intervention when a child has been identified with an elevated blood lead level or when conditions exist that creates a lead-based hazard that could lead to blood lead poisoning. The ordinance applies to all housing, structures, and premises occurring within unincorporated and all incorporated places in Linn County, Iowa. Over 4,000 children living in Linn County, ages 0-6 years, were tested for blood lead poisoning in 2017. Approximately 1 in 200 children tested are found to have elevated blood lead levels, which is a 90% decrease from 2000 levels.

Update to the Iowa Food Code

On May 4, 2018, Governor Reynolds signed into law an update to the Iowa Food Code. Linn County Public Health administers the Iowa Food Code under a 28E Agreement with the Department of Inspections and Appeals. The new code provides the first increase in food license fees in 11 years. The LCPH Food Safety Program conducts over 2000 inspections a year from a new facility pre-opening to routine inspections to nuisance and food borne illness investigations. It is the intention that the food fees largely fund these activities. However, more and more county tax dollars have been needed in recent years to support this important public health work.

Solar Group Buy Results

- Over 600 kW of installed solar production capacity.
- Annual saving of more than $78,000 in utility cost
- Annual reduction of more than 1,000,000 pounds of CO₂ per year
- Annual reduction of more than 285,000 gallons per year of water used in energy production.
HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR

Linn County Public Health (LCPH) was honored at the 2018 annual conference of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) with the “Local Health Department of the Year Award – Medium Category”. The award recognizes and honors the outstanding accomplishments of local health departments for their innovation, creativity, and impact on their community.

The award specifically recognized the State Innovation Model (SIM) community care coordination (C3) project in which partners created a standardized cross-sector referral system to improve health outcomes.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT BUILDING

After nearly five years of discussions and planning, construction began on the Linn County Public Health and Child and Youth Development building. The Harris Building will provide much-needed space for Linn County Public Health, a critical County department serving all Linn County residents that has outgrown its current space. It will also greatly improve the classrooms and learning environment for the children served by Linn County’s Child Development Center.

The Linn County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to posthumously honor Dr. Percy and Lileah Harris by naming the building after them in recognition of their lifetime of dedication and service to health and education in Linn County. The building is expected to be completed in late 2019.
2018 Community Health Assessment

In FY18, the Together! Healthy Linn Coalition, which guides and oversees the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan, conducted the 2018 Linn County Community Health Assessment (CHA). The CHA was a collaborative process with cross-sector participation, with more than 65 community partners contributing to CHA process through subcommittee or steering committee involvement.

Prior to conducting the CHA, the steering committee was restructured to reflect representation of various community sectors, including: Community Representatives, Governmental Agencies, Medical Care Providers, Education, Criminal Justice & Law Enforcement, Environmental Organizations, Faith Community, Business Community, Philanthropy, and Elected Officials.

Following the Mobilizing for Action Through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) framework, three separate Community Assessments were conducted:

Community Themes and Strengths Assessment: gathered the thoughts, opinions, and perceptions of health issues important to the community. Methods used were: 18 sticker boards with open-ended questions, 2 focus groups, a community survey with 722 responses, 15 windshield surveys, 10 Vox Pops (a video interview), and a Street Stall.

Forces of Change Assessment: conducted with community leaders. The Forces of Change Assessment is an analysis of the external factors that either directly or indirectly affect the public’s health and quality of life and the effectiveness of the public health system. 13 forces and six themes were identified as a common thread among the forces.

Community Health Status Assessment, focused on quantitative data in 11 indicator areas, including quality of life, behavioral risk factors, and other measures that reflect a broad definition of health.

The 2018 Community Health Assessment Executive Summary and full reports of the CHA are available on the Linn County Public Health webpage under Reports and Publications.
2018 BY THE NUMBERS

4,644 Immunizations Administered

5,151 Client visits to the clinic

280 Days the Air Quality Index was in the Good category

177 Water samples tested for arsenic

20.4% Percent increase in Facebook likes

2,182 Communicable Disease follow-ups

1,207 Inspections for restaurants and grocery stores

2,150 Permitted industrial and commercial emission points

53,565 Documents scanned to the document imaging and electronic medical records systems
Financial reports for FY18 are shown below. The year-end budget was $5,933,203 which included $2,903,287 in local tax dollars.

### Five Year Actual Budget History

![Five Year Actual Budget History](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Earned Revenue</th>
<th>Linn County Tax Dollars</th>
<th>% of Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; Finance</td>
<td>$990,341.79</td>
<td>$236,115.35</td>
<td>$754,226.44</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Health</td>
<td>2,187,628.36</td>
<td>1,176,109.78</td>
<td>1,011,518.58</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Env Public Health Services</td>
<td>2,755,232.94</td>
<td>1,617,691.43</td>
<td>1,137,541.51</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,933,203.09</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,029,916.56</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,903,286.53</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Revenue by Source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential / Commercial Fees</td>
<td>$752,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Fees</td>
<td>$345,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$1,931,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Levy</td>
<td>$2,903,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,933,203</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenditures by Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary / Fringe</td>
<td>$4,727,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$496,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider Charges</td>
<td>$76,561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges</td>
<td>$556,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Outlay</td>
<td>$20,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Credits</td>
<td>$56,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,933,203</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Linn County Public Health would like to recognize the staff who have worked to make Linn County a better place to work and live.

Lynne Abbott          Healthy Homes Program Nurse
Thomas Anderson       Environmental Health Technician
Rosemary Berckes      Temporary Medical Assistant
Sharon Blackford      Senior Clerk Typist
David Burns           Environmental Chemist
Shelby Burns          Clerical Specialist
Mechelle Carter       Application Support Analyst
Matthew Chervek       Environmental Health Technician
Anthony Daugherty     Senior Air Quality Scientist
Shane Dodge           Air & Water Quality Supervisor
Amy Drahos            Senior Air Quality Scientist
Pramod Dwivedi        Health Director
Kola Eiben            Patient Advocate
Jo Marie Elkema       Temporary Medical Assistant
Kaitlin Emrich        Assessment and Health Promotion Supervisor
Cindy Fiester         Chronic Disease Program Coordinator
Brianna Gabel         Environmental Health Specialist
Dustin Hinrichs       Environmental Quality Supervisor
Larry Hlavacek        Administration & Finance Manager
Amy Hockett           Epidemiologist
James Hodina          Environmental Public Health Manager
Kim Honn              Administrative Assistant
Sue Ellen Hosch       Senior Environmental Health Specialist
Mary Keiler           Secretary
Jim Kelso             Environmental Health Specialist
Tricia Kitzmann       Community Health Manager
Jeff Lake             Environmental Chemist
Carole Lamphier       Environmental Chemist
Kyle Lundberg         Laboratory Supervisor
Renee Martin          Medical Coder/Billing Specialist
Heather Meador        Clinical Services Supervisor
Chase Moffitt         Senior Environmental Health Specialist
Melissa Monroe        Senior Health Education Specialist
Katie Montague        Licensed Practical Nurse
Riley Mullins         Environmental Health Technician
Sadie Nolan           Public Health Nurse
Robin Nyberg          Environmental Chemist
Ann Olson             Lead Coordinator
Jon Otto              Environmental Chemist
Tricia Peckosh-Rudin  Public Health Nurse
Ruby Perin            Healthy Homes Supervisor
Kathryn Reasner       Senior Health Education Specialist
Robin Robinson        Resource Coordinator
Rachel Schramm        Senior Health Education Specialist
Sheri Schuchmann      Public Health Nurse
Cynthia Shubatt       Secretary
Tim Slothower         Environmental Health Technician
Lori Smith            Certified Medical Assistant
Diana Stanford        Account Technician
Alicia Steines        HIV/HCV/STI Outreach Coordinator
Julie Stephens        Emergency Preparedness & Disaster Recovery Specialist
Karen Thornton        Environmental Health Specialist
Jia Timmerman         Air Quality Scientist
Vildana Tinjic        Environmental Health Specialist
Janell White          Air Quality Specialist
Diane Williams        Patient Advocate

Linn County Public Health also supported students and interns from Buena Vista University, Coe College, Cornell College, Iowa State University, Mt. Mercy University, University of Iowa, University of Iowa College of Public Health, University of Minnesota, University of Northern Iowa, Walden University, William Penn University