

Klamath County Public Health

January 2018

2017  
Annual Report



## Mission

To create a community where the healthy choice is the natural choice.

## Vision

A community that achieves optimal health.

## Core values

- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Accountability
- ◆ Respect
- ◆ Compassion
- ◆ Excellence

## Management team

**Director:** Courtney Vanbragt

**Assistant Director:** Jessica Dale

**Nursing Services:** Kellie Hansen

**Environmental Health:** Ramona Quinn

**Health Promotion, Disease Prevention:**  
Erin Schulten

**Women, Infants and Children:** Sue Schiess

## Misión

Crear una comunidad donde la elección saludable sea la elección natural.

## Visión

Una comunidad que logra una salud óptima.

## Valores fundamentales

- ◆ Integridad
- ◆ Responsabilidad
- ◆ Respeto
- ◆ Compasión
- ◆ Excelencia

## Equipo directivo

**Director:** Courtney Vanbragt

**Asistente de dirección:** Jessica Dale

**Servicios de enfermería:** Kellie Hansen

**Salud ambiental:** Ramona Quinn

**Promoción de la salud prevención de enfermedades:** Erin Schulten

**Mujeres lactantes y niños:** Sue Schiess

# Director's review

A new year is time to reflect on past success and prepare for new opportunities, and I would like Klamath County residents to know that Public Health is constantly at work ensuring the safety and health of all in the community. Whether its ensuring residents have access to immunizations or inspecting restaurants and water systems, every day the safety of the region is the core of the Public Health experience.

One key measurement of Public Health effectiveness is the triennial review process performed by the Oregon Health Authority. Klamath County Public Health (KCPH) received very favorable results in the audit of 17 program areas, during the 2017 review.

Throughout Klamath County, it might be hard for residents to readily identify the many public health community health initiatives – from air quality to the partnership and support offered through the Women, Infants and Children program. At Public Health, we are fortunate to count Sky Lakes Medical Center as a vital partner, along with Klamath Tribal Health & Family Services, Klamath Basin Behavioral Health, Cascade Health Alliance, and Klamath Open Door Family Practice. Some of our best partners, however, are the citizens whose lives we touch daily.

We are the professionals who take the larger view of the community, asking the long ranging questions of how do we become a healthier society and who will be effected by changes made today?

I am pleased with the success of my staff and would like to share a bit more about our recent review.

Administration: The public health team consists of approximately 25 full-time employees working within the following Divisions: Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Vital Records, Environmental Health, Clinic, Outreach, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and Health Promotion Disease Prevention. We were praised for eliminating third-party billing and the implementation of extensive marketing and outreach about public health services. KCPH's statewide colleagues were impressed with the increased number of relationships, compared to the review three years ago. Klamath professionals work well together in the best interest of the community, and it

is rewarding to see that experience acknowledged by others.

**Babies First! and Perinatal: CaCoon and Babies First!** are two home-visiting programs that help vulnerable families better serve their children . The KCPH team was noted for its collaborative work and demonstration of a high-functioning, organized and professional mother and child health team. The policy and procedures manual for the nurse home visiting programs garnered attention for being comprehensive and well done. Also, the Oregon Health Authority is using the manual as a model and resource for other county health departments.

**Civil Rights:** Our policies and procedures around civil rights were found to be in compliance. This is an area of great focus for KCPH, as we strive to ensure all services are confidential and our clients and partners are treated with dignity and respect.

**Communicable Disease:** There have been numerous staff transitions since the 2014 triennial review, and in those three years we've seen 467 reportable disease conditions and 22 reported outbreaks. The Public Health Emergency Preparedness team members work well together to investigate outbreaks and inform the community of how to prevent communicable disease transmission.

**Drinking Water Services:** The drinking water program provides services to public water systems that result in reduced health risk and increased compliance with drinking water monitoring and maximum contaminant level requirements. KCPH is very responsive to alerts and this is well documented through contact reports and system documentation.

**Fiscal:** Good stewardship requires us to be thoughtful about expenses and service-related fees. Internal controls are in place to safeguard assets and to prevent and detect errors in a timely manner. Finances are well managed, providing efficiencies that well serve the county.

**Food, Pool, and Lodging Health & Safety:** Auditors said, KCPH's Environmental Health division is doing a great job of providing environmental health services to the community. The inspection rates for licensed facilities are 100 percent in all program areas and staff conduct high quality inspections, focused on critical risk factors.

**Health Officer:** Klamath County Public Health Officer, Dr. Wendy Warren is well versed in the arena of public health, and provides ex-

pert medical guidance for KCPH. She has regular communication with clinical staff and the KCPH Director.

**Health Security, Preparedness and Response:** The Public Health Emergency Preparedness staff have worked hard over the years to bring the program into compliance and continue to strengthen the program. In addition to participating in statewide and regional preparedness and response exercises, the program has supported response to infectious disease outbreaks, harmful algal blooms, and extreme wildfire smoke.

**Immunizations:** KCPH has maintained a quality immunization program amid staff turnover and funding challenges. Staff members continue to make immunizations a priority and perform community outreach activities. Through the receipt of a mini grant, KCPH was able to immunize more than 125 school-aged children during two walk-in immunization clinics.

**Reproductive Health:** KCPH provides clinical services according to National Standards for Quality Family Planning services. Family planning care was deemed “excellent”, with an emphasis on counseling, education and access to long-acting, reversible contraceptives. It was noted that the local teen pregnancy rate has decreased 61 percent since 2004, and that medical staff are providing excellent care according to the United States Preventative Services Task Force standards.

**Sexually Transmitted Infections:** The reviewer was impressed by the program’s management and staff, their clear commitment to continuous quality improvement activities through the program, and their commitment to patient confidentiality. Also, the steps taken by staff to reinforce messages around confidentiality of services and records for youth is outstanding and serves to engender trust with the most vulnerable members of the county. A pocket guide to sexually transmitted infections created by KCPH was also termed outstanding, and noted as a model for other providers throughout the state.

**Tobacco Prevention & Education:** The program is implemented in a comprehensive approach that includes facilitating community partnerships, creating tobacco-free environments, countering pro-tobacco influences, promoting quitting of tobacco among adults and youth, and reducing the burden of tobacco. KCPH has built positive relationships with a variety of community partners and are recognized by decision makers and partners as experts in tobacco preven-

tion . Recently implemented was tobacco retail licensing, which will provide the means through the paid fees to establish local inspections to ensure tobacco is not being sold to minors. Klamath County is one of the first counties in the state to pass this initiative. The others are Benton, Lane and Multnomah counties.

Tuberculosis: A case of TB is diagnosed in Klamath County every few years. Although the county has a low incidence for the disease, the team stays current in the best practices associated with treatment through specialized classes and trainings. KCPH clinical staff are prepared for the incidence of a TB case and are knowledgeable about the disease.

Women Infants and Children (WIC): The program was one of only five statewide, out of 34 total, to maintain its caseload during a period of state and national decline. WIC's mission is to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care. Delivering high quality nutrition services is essential in not only carrying out this mission, but also ensuring that WIC continues to be the premiere national public health nutrition program. In 2016, the most current comprehensive total available, 3,901 women, infants and children were served by WIC in Klamath County. That is approximately six percent of the county's population.

WIC Farm Direct Nutrition Program (FDNP): The Oregon Farm Direct Nutrition Program provides WIC families with FDNP checks once a year to purchase fresh, locally-grown fruits, vegetables and cut herbs directly from local farmers. In Klamath County, WIC has offered an all-day fair in 2016 and 2017, and the redemption rate increased by 13 percent.

KCPH staff consider it a privilege to serve our friends and neighbors. For more information about Public Health and its services, call 541-882-8846.

# Governance

Klamath County Public Health was founded in 1924 and is a department of Klamath County government. It operates under many grants and contracts, executed by the Board of County Commissioners.

The county was established on Oct. 17, 1882, by the Oregon Legislative Assembly. It was created from the western part of Lake County and named after a tribe of Native Americans white travelers called the Klamath.

Linkville was named the county seat, however it was renamed Klamath Falls in 1893. The government of Klamath County consisted originally of a county judge, two county commissioners, clerk, treasurer, coroner, surveyor, and sheriff. The judge's position was eliminated in 1965, and the number of county commissioners increased from two to three.

Historically, Klamath County's economy has been based on timber and agriculture. Three-fourths of the county is forested; however, more than half is publicly owned. The large stands of timber resulted in the development of wood products industries in the county. In spite of the high altitude, short growing season, low annual rainfall, and cold winters, agriculture plays an important role in the economy. Excellent soil, a network of irrigation canals, sunshine, and the introduction of cash crops such as potatoes and feed barley contribute to the agricultural industry.

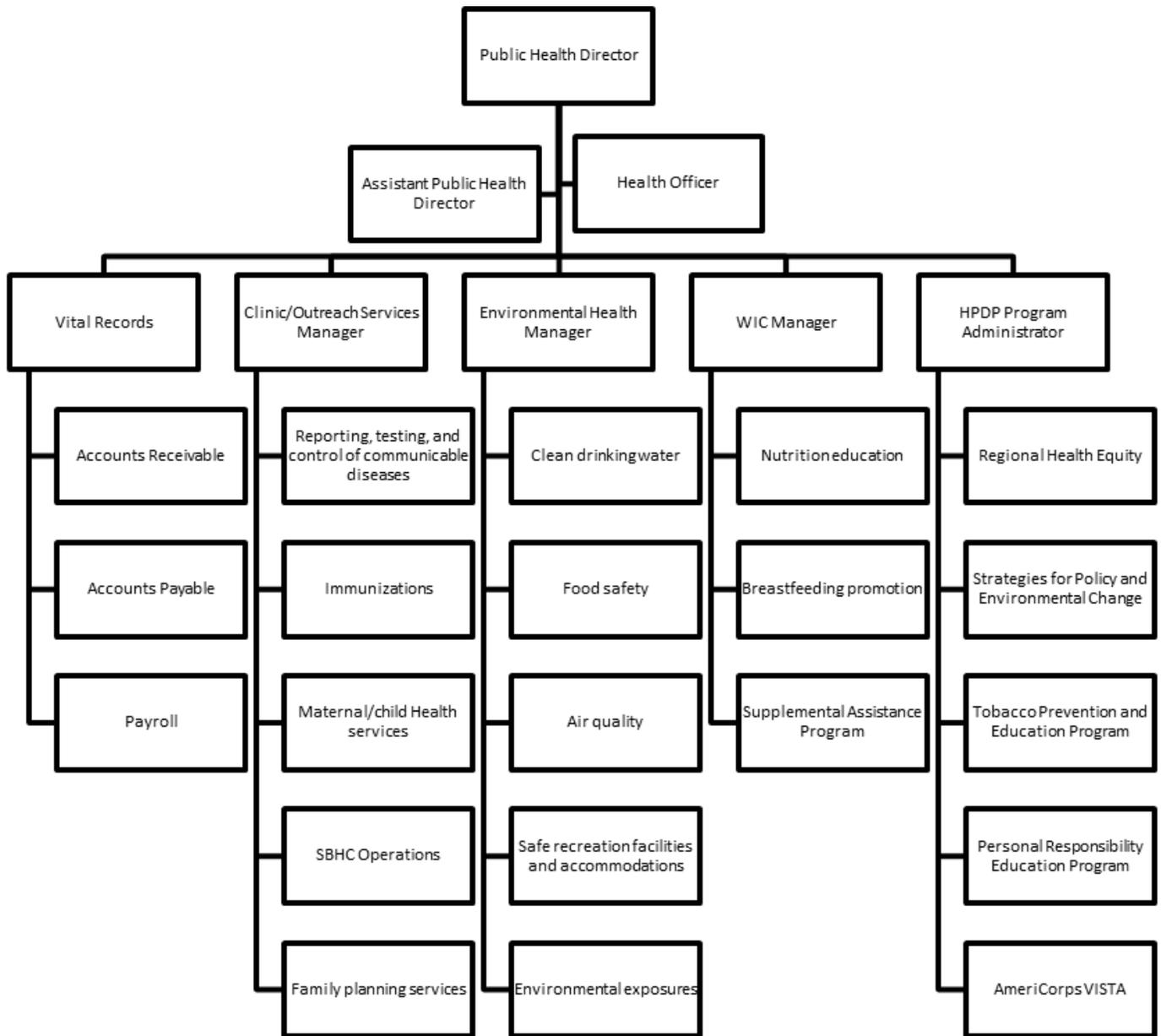
The many lakes and mountains, including Crater Lake National Park attract tourism to the county.

**Donnie Boyd**  
Commissioner

**Derrick DeGroot**  
2017 Board of Commissioners  
Vice Chair

**Kelley Minty Morris**  
2017 Board of Commissioners  
Chair  
Klamath County Public Health  
Liaison

# Organizational chart



KCPH operates through several divisions, including Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Vital Records, Environmental Health, Clinic, Outreach, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and Health Promotion Disease Prevention.

Above is a snapshot of KCPH programs in 2017. Due to the fluxuation of grant funding, programmatic services may be offered one year but not in another.

# Public Health Emergency Preparedness

During public health emergencies, the Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division (OHA-PHD) works with local and tribal health authorities to make sure all Oregonians get health and safety information that is timely and accurate. OHA develops outreach materials in a variety of formats (websites, social media, print, television, radio) and provides its partners, including KCPH, with training and technical assistance in crisis and emergency risk communication.

Current and season hazards outlined by OHA-PHD include flu prevention, flooding, landslides, windstorms, and winter storms. The list of potential hazards is longer and includes bioterrorism, drought, earthquakes, extreme heat, tsunamis, and wildfires and smoke.

The KCPH PHEP team routinely responds to communicable disease outbreaks. Disease prevention and control is a cooperative effort involving health care providers, local and state health department personnel and members of the community. OHA-PHD programs work to prevent the emergence and spread of communicable diseases. This includes collecting and analyzing disease reports, studying risk factors, protecting exposed individuals and families, developing guidelines for disease prevention and control, and planning and responding to public health emergencies involving communicable diseases.

615

Communicable  
disease  
investigations

Sprague  
River

Flood

Summer  
Wildfire

Smoke

8

Red Health  
Alert days

# Vital Records

Oregon law requires all vital events such as birth, marriage, divorce, registered domestic partnership, dissolution of registered domestic partnership, fetal death, and death be permanently recorded and registered. These are legal records documenting a vital event.

Certified copies of vital records are required to get social security benefits, a driver's license, passport, and other legal documents.

In Klamath County certified Birth and Death certificates are available through KCPH up to six months after the vital event. Beyond six months, certificates must be requested of the Oregon Vital Records office.

The Oregon Vital Records office, known as the Center for Health Statistics (CHS), is where to get certified copies of birth certificates, death certificates, and other vital records in Oregon. This process is governed by Oregon Revised Statute and Administrative Rule.

511

Birth  
certificates

1,454

Death  
certificates

# KCPH Environmental Health

Environmental public health works to identify, assess and report on threats to human health from exposure to environmental and occupational hazards, and advise the community on potential risks where they live, work, play and learn.

KCPH strives to meet preventive health care goals for citizens of Klamath County. The division's goal is to reduce or eliminate environmental health risk factors that cause human suffering, disease or injuries. These goals are accomplished through consultation, education, inspections, investigations, and enforcement.

Some of the areas covered include:

- ◆ Air Quality
- ◆ Drinking Water Supply
- ◆ Food Safety
- ◆ Licensed Facilities

144

Green

Air Quality days

25

Yellow

Air Quality days

42

Red

Air Quality days

494

Restaurant inspections

# Clinic

The Oregon Reproductive Health Program works with KCPH's nurses and nurse practitioners to offer free or low-cost reproductive health services and birth control.

The Oregon Health Authority also supports the testing for communicable disease, such as sexually transmitted infections, and immunizations that occur at KCPH's Clinic.

Immunization is the safest and most effective public health tool for preventing disease and death. Vaccination, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended immunization schedules, not only protects families, but the entire community as well.

Improving immunization rates is one of seven priority areas from Oregon's State Health Improvement Plan.

1,825

Clinic visits

1,024

Reproductive  
Health visits

903

Immunizations  
given

134

TB tests

# Nursing outreach

Babies First! is a home visiting program for newborn children up to three years old. Public Health nurses work closely with families and doctors to perform home visits, monitoring growth and development.

Babies First! assessment visits happen at 4, 8, 12, 18, 24, and 36 months. Routine visits happen at least once each month.

CaCoon serves families with children from birth to age 21 who have complex medical conditions which result in special medical, educational, vocational and social needs. For children age six and over (who are not eligible for CaCoon), KCPH has a referral process to help families obtain the services needed.

Services may relate to:

- ◆ Cerebral palsy
- ◆ Chronic lung disease
- ◆ Chronic orthopedic problems
- ◆ Cleft lip and/or palate
- ◆ Genetic disorders
- ◆ Hydrocephalus
- ◆ Heart disease
- ◆ Metabolic disorders
- ◆ Motor dysfunction requiring special feeding programs
- ◆ Rheumatoid arthritis
- ◆ Spina bifida
- ◆ Spinal cord injuries

440

CaCoon visits

256

Babies First  
visits

# Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

The special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children is a program that helps pregnant women, new mothers, and young children learn about nutrition, eat well, and stay healthy. WIC provides nutrition education and counseling, breast feeding support, nutritious foods, health screening and referrals.

We say that WIC works wonders. Women in the WIC program eat better, have healthier babies and receive early prenatal care. Infants born to WIC mothers weigh more and grow and develop better. Children on WIC eat foods with more iron and vitamin C, visit their doctors regularly and receive their scheduled immunizations.

From May through early November 2017, WIC distributed 52,557 pounds of food distributed through Klamath Lake Counties Food Bank's Produce Connection program.

**\$1,527,436**

value of aid  
provided

**2,250**

Families served

**75%**

Of families  
served have a  
working parent

**2,839**

Infants and  
children served

# Health Promotion Disease Prevention

The programs in the Health Promotion division are founded on evidenced-based best practices to improve the health status of those who live, work, and play in Klamath County.

The grant-funded programs work with the community, promoting healthy lifestyles and disease prevention through outreach, education, programming, and health assessments.

The division participated in numerous community engagement events throughout the year, including writing the 2016 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) with community partners. A volunteer and an extern from Oregon Institute of Technology's Population Health Management program spent a term with the division, gaining work experience.

Programs associated with the division in 2017 were:

- ◆ Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP)
- ◆ Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)
- ◆ My Future-My Choice
- ◆ Klamath Regional Health Equity Coalition (KRHEC)
- ◆ Maternal and Child Health Title V Block Grant
- ◆ AmeriCorps VISTA

4<sup>th</sup>

Oregon county  
to implement  
tobacco retail  
licensing

200

tobacco quit  
kits distributed

288

youth reached  
through PREP