IL Mentorship Participants

Cumberland County Health Department (IL)

Background

State: Illinois
LHD Population Size Served: 11,048
Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: 52
Retail Program Standards Met/Currently Working On: 1, 2, 5, 9 Improvement Plan, Verification Audit
Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2011

The Mission Statement of the Cumberland County Health Department is: To assist Cumberland County residents of all ages to develop and maintain healthy living habits through programs based on each individual’s assessed need.

The Cumberland County Health Department services a remote rural county in Central-Southeastern Illinois. The eight townships that make up Cumberland County cover 346 square miles and, based on the 2010 census population of 11,048, the average number of persons served per square mile is 31.9. The residents of Cumberland County are 98.3% White, 0.3% Black, 0.2% American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 0.2% Asians. Further, Residents reporting two or more races are 0.8%, Residents of Hispanic or Latino origin is 0.7%, and White residents not Hispanic are 97.9%. The Residents reporting they were Foreign born are 0.5%. The English language is spoken in the home by 98.6% of the Residents and a language other than English by 1.4% of the Residents.

The age range of Cumberland County residents served by the Health Department is 6.4% under five (5) years of age, 23.2% under eighteen (18) years, 54.2% ages 18 to 64, and 16.2% ages 65 and over. The female population of Cumberland County is 50.8% and the male population is 49.2%.

The governmental seat of Cumberland County is the Village of Toledo, which has a population of 1,238. There are three additional populated areas, which are the Village of Greenup, population 1,513, the City of Neoga, population 1,636, and the Village of Jewett, population 223. The rest of the residents live on farms (grain, dairy, or hog) of which most have been passed down through family lineage. The chief county government is a six-member elected County Board. The nine member Board of Health is comprised of one physician, one dentist, a representative from the County Board, and six citizens concerned with the health of their community.

Cumberland County residents foster a close-knit community. There are numerous Protestant churches and two Catholic churches. Individual communities within the county provide a variety of events throughout the year, which includes the Toledo Spring Festival, Neoga Days, and the Greenup Fall Festival. The Cumberland County Fairgrounds are located outside of Greenup and additionally allow visitors to see the Historic Covered Bridge built by Abe and Thomas Lincoln and Dennis Hanks. There are a number of civic clubs and organizations and 4-H clubs still thrive in the county.

Cumberland County working residents are employed in small business, self-employed, or travel 25 – 30 miles to work outside the county. The average number of residents per household is 2.5 and the median household income is $41,962.00. The number of Cumberland County residents below poverty level is 1,260 or 11.4% of the county’s population. The state of the economy in 2010 and 2011 has forced some residents to reside in one household placing infants and children and senior citizens under the care of the household’s primary caregivers.

Cumberland County has two school districts, Cumberland Community Unit School District #77 and Neoga Community Unit School District #3. The education level of Cumberland County residents age 25 and over is 87.7% High School graduates and 13.1% hold a Bachelor’s degree or higher. There are no higher-level
educational institutions in Cumberland County. However, Lakeland Community College and Eastern Illinois University are both within an adjacent county (Coles). There are 1,051 Veterans in Cumberland County.

Cumberland County has no hospitals and, at the time this plan was compiled, no physicians living in the county. The closest hospitals are Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon (Coles County) and St. Anthony Hospital in Effingham (Effingham County). There are three licensed Nurse Practitioners living in the community, one Physician’s Assistant, and three ambulance services with Paramedic level responders. Cumberland County has four doctor’s offices, one dental office, and two pharmacies. Cumberland Associates, located in Toledo, provides a 24-hour crisis hotline and mental health services.

Overview of Mentorship Program Participation

The Cumberland County Health Department participated in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program as a mentee in the second cohort (2012-2013). The Cumberland County Health Department was mentored by Fairfax County Health Department (VA).

Mentorship Program Lessons Learned/Tips

As a new person in the field of Public Health, I have found that working with another “seasoned” department on the FDA Retail Program Standards has been a very eye opening experience. I found that working with my mentors, Cumberland County, Illinois has a lot of work to be done. The Cumberland County and the State of Illinois Food Codes are not detailed enough to meet compliance with a lot of the FDA Retail Program Standards.

The simplicity of the codes are of a concern to me also. For an establishment owner there are too many “grey” areas within the codes. When information is left open for interpretation, errors can be made. Those errors have the potential to harm the people of Cumberland County. I have a lot of work ahead of me to get Cumberland County up to the standards that the FDA has set.

In working with my mentor, a lot of information was shared on what they did to accomplish the tasks and meet compliance with the FDA Retail Standards. In meeting with my mentor, I feel that I have someone to contact personally now with questions and issues that may arise for me during this journey. I cannot thank Fairfax, VA Health Department enough for the time they took away from their busy schedules for this program. To help me, as a representative of Cumberland County, Illinois to move ahead and make this county safer for those that call it home.

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Link:

http://cumberlandhealth.org/chd/index.php/environmental/food-protection
The mission at Jersey County Health Department (JCHD) is committed to enhancing the quality of life for Jersey County residents by reducing morbidity and mortality through the prevention and/or control of disease, provision of public and professional education, and coordination and/or provision of care.

The JCHD, Division of Environmental Health is responsible for the food safety regulatory oversight of food service establishments within Jersey County, including restaurants, schools, bars, hospitals, nursing homes, daycares, and temporary vendors. We provide protection of the health of the consumer by assuring the food and food products, provide by food service establishments and retail food stores are protected against contamination by infectious disease agents or adulteration of toxic material. We inspect each retail food establishment at a frequency as required by the establishment’s classification category. We review construction plans for all known new retail food establishments. We maintain and improve equipment. We use enforcement procedures and policies in order to improve the sanitation practice of food service establishments having repeated violations or low scores.

There are currently 2 Full Time Employees and 1 Part-Time Employee in our retail food regulatory program. The JCHD retail food program regulates 117 retail establishments, including full service restaurants, fast food restaurants, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, retail food stores, mobile and temporary food vendors. These food facilities are categorized in one of three category types. Category 1 facilities - "Category 1 facility" means a food establishment that presents a high relative risk of causing food-borne illness, based on the large number of food handling operations typically implicated in food-borne outbreaks and/or the type of population served by the facility. Category 2 Facilities -“Category 2 facility” means a food establishment that presents a medium relative risk of causing food-borne illness, based upon few food handling operations typically implicated in food-borne illness outbreaks. "Category 3 facility" means a food establishment that presents a low relative risk of causing food-borne illness, based upon few or no food handling operations typically implicated in food-borne illness outbreaks.

Illinois has adopted the 2013 FDA Food Code, Chapters 1 through 7 (except the terms "food employee" and “food establishment” in sections 1-201.10, sections 2-102.12, 2-102.20 and 2.2 in their entirety, and the terms "plumbing fixture" and “plumbing system” in sections 5-2 (except that 5-202.12 (B) and (C), 5-203.11 and 5-204.11 remain applicable)).

Jersey County Health Department derives regulatory authority from the Illinois Department of Public Health Local Health Protection Grant Code (77 Ill. Adm. Code 615) and the Jersey County Food Sanitation Program Ordinance amended May 2010.

Overview of Mentorship Program Participation

Jersey Health Department participated in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program as a mentee in the sixth cohort. Calhoun County Health Department (IL) mentored Jersey on Standards 1 and 6.

Mentorship Program Lessons Learned/Tips

The final findings and lessons learned were that if you have not adopted the FDA Food Code or do not have an ordinance that reflects the FDA Food Code, you will have a hard time completing Standard one. We were able to develop a Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Ordinance. It was beneficial having a mentor that was in the same state because they also followed the same state laws. I learned that developing these policies is a process and there are a lot of steps to achieve to be able to use these. Especially, meeting with
the County Boards and getting it approved by the officials.

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Ogle County Health Department

Background

State: IL
HD Population Size Served: 53,000
Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: 350
Retail Program Standards Met/Working On: Meet 5 working on Verification Audit/Working on Standards 2 & 7
Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: 2015
NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s): 5

The mission of the Ogle County Health Department is to prevent disease, injury and disability by promoting healthy behaviors and preserving the natural environment through health education, environmental protection and public health nursing, nutritional and supportive services. Our challenge the past year has been to fulfill that mission in view of a lack of a state budget for the fiscal year. It has been a challenge to keep our services intact while losing 1/3 of our staff. Our team has pulled together and done phenomenally well.

Ogle County has one Licensed Environmental Health Practitioner and one sanitarian in training very part-time. We inspect nearly 350 restaurants and a large number of temporary permit holders throughout the summer festival season. Our health department derives regulatory authority from Illinois Chapter 77 of the Public Health Code.

Role in Mentorship Program

Ogle County participated as mentee in the NACCHO Retail Program Standards cohort five and was mentored by Southern Nevada Health District.

Lessons Learned/Tips

Ogle County meets Standard 5 and has been working on meeting additional goals in Standards 2 and 7. For us the challenge has been a lack of a state budget that led to our 2 experienced sanitarians retiring. This actually has become a bit of a blessing in that we are able to start fresh with a new hire. Our biggest tip/lesson learned is to put your practices into written policy.

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