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PUBLIC HEALTH

NEWSLETTER

OF THE APPLETON PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT



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Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws

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VISION: Health for all, together.

MISSION: Facilitate equitable community wellbeing through education, health promotion, and response to public health needs.

10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide a framework for public health to protect and promote the health of all people in all communities. To achieve equity, the Essential Public Health Services actively promote policies, systems, and overall community conditions that enable optimal health for all and seek to remove systemic and structural barriers that have resulted in health inequities. Such barriers include poverty, racism, gender discrimination, ableism, and other forms of oppression. Everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to achieve optimal health and well-being.

Each month, the Appleton Health Department Newsletter will feature stories about how we are achieving each of the 10 Essential Public Health Services. This month, we will focus on Essential Public Health Service #5: Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health.

WHAT WE ARE DOING

The City of Appleton Health Department creates, champions and implements policies, plans, and laws that impact public health through a process called a Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The two interconnected processes are used to assess community health needs and develop strategies to improve the health and well-being of a specific population or community.

The Health Department's Community Health Assessment (CHA) is a systematic examination of the health status, health behaviors, health resources, and social determinants of health within Appleton as featured in our August 2023 Newsletter.

Once the Community Health Assessment is complete and key health issues are identified, a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is developed. The CHIP is a strategic plan that outlines specific actions, programs, and policies to address the health needs and priorities identified during the assessment. It involves collaboration among various stakeholders, including other local health departments, community-based organizations, healthcare providers, schools, businesses, and community members. The CHIP sets measurable objectives, timelines, and identifies available resources to implement evidence-based interventions that will improve the health of the community and reduce health disparities.

Findings from Community Health Assessments conducted by the Appleton Health Department including the Homelessness Summit, Point-in-Time Count, and Age-Friendly Survey have supported the development of the Community Health Division. Learn more on the next page.

LETTER FROM THE HEALTH OFFICER

MEET CHUCK



Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

On July 19th, the City of Appleton Common Council voted unanimously to approve a table of organization change to create a new Division of Community Health within the Appleton Health Department. Specifically, the Community Health Supervisor position was created to lead this new division and the Coordinated Entry Specialist position was moved from the Department of Community Economic Development to the newly formed Community Health Division.

This historic structural change will better support the Appleton Health Department in its role as a Community Chief Health Strategist through enhanced data collection efforts, stakeholder collaboration, and supporting a Tri-County, regional focus for understanding and improving conditions that affect residents within our collective communities. Additionally, the reorganization of the Coordinated Entry Specialist position places increased focus on housing and other social determinants of health by the City of Appleton. Collectively, these changes will help us inform data-driven decision-making to better address health inequities experienced by underserved and marginalized residents.

This milestone marks a particularly exciting and rewarding day for me personally and professionally, as it was an initiative I was excited to begin as I applied for the Health Officer/Director position in December 2021. I want to thank Appleton Health Department staff, City colleagues, the Appleton Board of Health, and the Appleton Common Council for joining me in our shared vision of promoting health and preventing chronic disease for all of us.

CHARLES E SEPERS, JR, PHD, MPH
HEALTH OFFICER | DIRECTOR



Dr. Charles Sepers Jr., Health Officer and Director of the Appleton Health Department relocated to Appleton nearly two years ago and found himself *home*. After serving as a tri-county Health Officer in middle America Chuck identifies the speed and agility with which the City of Appleton, alderpersons, residents, business owners, and stakeholders enact meaningful action as unique to our municipality.

Chuck cites the accessibility of local government officials and staff and the interactive engagement of the people we serve every day as the secret sauce. “[We] don’t have to manufacture meaning when the goal of [our] work is to ensure the well-being of others— to provide the types of services that [Appleton residents] need and they expect— that they pay taxes to ensure and they exercise their democracy to guarantee. That’s all a very meaningful process and it’s a privilege to be a part of that.”

While away from City Hall, Chuck typically finds himself exploring Appleton, neighboring communities, and outdoors— hiking, camping, or walking, often with a dog named Gus.

BOARD OF HEALTH

CALENDAR

RESOURCES

[CDC-10 Essential Public Health Services -Full](#)

