Letter from the Administrator

As you review the Annual Report for 2014, you will notice that this has been a year of transition to prepare the Health Department to continue its mission of healthy people in a healthy community without health disparities into the future while maintaining our values of responsiveness, resourcefulness to the community, expertise, and collaboration. The work of the Winnebago County Health Department has focused on 5 health priorities identified by the community including maternal child health issues, access to care, the contributing causes of obesity and tobacco to chronic disease, and violence with an overarching concern on health equity. The Annual Report has been structured to align our services with these priorities.

As a state certified local health department, we are also responsible for health protection and prevention activities including environmental health and communicable disease monitoring and control; preparedness activities for public health emergencies; and health promotion activities including community screenings, education, and policy development and advocacy.

As part of our ongoing commitment to high quality programming and continuous quality improvement, the Health Department submitted its application of intent in September 2014 to become nationally accredited through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). PHAB Accreditation requires the Health Department to demonstrate its abilities and capacity to meet national standards for public health. These national standards include the 3 core functions and 10 essential services.

While the annual report focuses on the activities of the Winnebago County Health Department, much of the work is done in collaboration and support with community partners and our residents under the guidance and leadership of the Board of Health. Realizing our mission requires all of us to work together.

As the new Administrator for the Winnebago County Health Department, I have learned that the greatest asset of Winnebago County is the community and the commitment to improving the conditions that support health for all.

I look forward to working with you to achieve our mission.

Sandra Martell, RN, DNP
Public Health Administrator
Working together, the WCHD and local health systems continually develop, modify, and test their emergency response plans for situations which could occur such as rapid outbreak of a highly-contagious disease. This is part of the larger infectious disease control plan already in place. In 2014, WCHD focused time and energy around Ebola and preparedness in the event that a case was to present itself here in Winnebago County.

Protocols have been developed to address monitoring, laboratory specimen submission, isolation and quarantine, personal protective equipment (PPE) and person under investigation (PUI) by Health Protection and Promotion, Emergency Response, and the role of the Public Health Administrator. Presentations on Ebola were made to the Winnebago County Board and general public regarding preparedness activities to address Ebola. Also, a presentation was made regarding the role of public health emphasizing isolation and quarantine activities incorporating relative risk for influenza and cardiovascular disease.

The Winnebago County Health Department, along with our local health systems, continues to assess the current Ebola situation in the United States and worldwide. We remain in contact with the CDC and other health departments to monitor the situation.

Each year the Winnebago County Health Department conducts surveillance of disease and health issues in Winnebago County and conducts outbreak investigations to identify the cause of disease, control, and eliminate the risk of illness to others.

In 2014, the Winnebago County Health Department reported two outbreaks of influenza A. The first outbreak occurred in early January of 2014 and the second in late November. Although seasonal influenza is not a reportable disease to the Winnebago County Health Department, numerous clinical and long term care facilities, and schools, voluntarily report influenza to aid in identifying trends in our community. Using these voluntary reports along with emergency room data from two health systems, WCHD can track influenza trends to better control the disease and reduce risk of illness to others. In 2014, WCHD used this surveillance information to make recommendations, including increased vaccination efforts, initiation of nursing home restrictions, and initiation of hospital visitor restrictions in order to prevent and control the spread of influenza.
The 2014 school year marked the second year of the Walking School Bus (WSB), a concept that was part of the Winnebago County Health Department’s “We Choose Health” grant. The Walking School Bus team helped ensure children’s safe arrival to school.

In the Walking School Bus program, students walked a designated route coordinated by adults and volunteers. The walking route was mapped and assessed by the City of Rockford, Rockford Police Department, and other community organizations.

Lewis Lemon Elementary was the pilot program in 2012-2013 and continued into the 2013-2014 school year. 31% of Lewis Lemons students walked to school as their primary mode of transportation. Many students were walking unsupervised or were not coming to school at all. The Safe Routes Initiative gives parents the peace of mind that their child will make it to school safely especially in areas where students cannot ride the bus. In 2014, Ellis Arts Academy was added as a Walking School Bus site.

The Walking School Bus was part of a larger initiative called Safe Routes to School (SRTS). The Safe Routes initiative used the 5 E’s (education, encouragement, enforcement, engineering, and evaluations) to increase students’ physical activity, improve neighborhood conditions and teach the importance of safety. In the larger initiative, policy was used to make the neighborhood an easier place to walk. The Safe routes initiative advocated for a Complete Streets approach to neighborhood design which considers pedestrians first when making improvements to the infrastructure.

There was an unusually high number of influenza cases in Winnebago County in the year 2014. In an effort to prevent new cases and control the spread of the disease, the Winnebago County Health Department used several methods to inform and educate community partners and the general public about the outbreak. Press releases, letters to parents of students in Rockford Public Schools, and coordination with local hospitals and health systems to restrict visitors to nursing homes and hospitals were some of the methods used to inform the public of the problem. Additionally, Facebook and Twitter posts were used to encourage influenza and pneumonia vaccination and inform public that influenza cases were higher than normal in 2014.
In January of 2014, the Board of Health adopted the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan for Winnebago County Health Department. The document represents a 10 month long process to define overarching themes, key changes and opportunities and challenges for local public health practice in Rockford and in Winnebago County. The effort updates the 2007 strategic plan and establishes a road map for where WCHD is headed, what it plans to achieve, and the strategies and measures by which the process will be evaluated. One of the overarching themes relates to the belief that this community’s future economic wellbeing is very much connected to the health of all residents. Success will be indicated by more flexible and reliable funding, growing a culture of continuous quality improvement supported through on-going work force development; fostering a community-wide culture of health, where health is recognized as a core community value and spirit around which individuals, neighborhoods, businesses, organization, and decision makers are engaged. This represents a transformative approach to the future of public health that will have a greater potential to achieve WCHD’s organizational mission and vision.

Law is an important public health tool that plays a critical role in protecting the public. Each year, the Winnebago County Health Department supports the passage of new or amended public health laws, ordinances or regulations that will protect the health of the Winnebago County community.

In 2014, the Winnebago County Health Department supported new public health laws and ordinances through the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium (NIPHC). New law implementations for the year 2014 included several new codes: Illinois Department of Public Health Sewage Code, Well Code, Lead Poisoning Prevention Code, and Food Code. Additionally WCHD supported the Milk Products Act SB 3157, also known as the Raw Milk Act in order to prevent the distribution of adulterated milk. WCHD also supported HB 5657 which provided a framework for regulation of food samples in farmers’ markets. WCHD also played an active role in supporting Illinois SB 2202, Smoke Free Campus Act, which prohibits smoking from each campus of a State-supported institution of higher Education in Illinois. Each of these public health laws were supported in order to protect the public and promote a healthy community in Winnebago County.
In 2014, the ACA Grant accomplished many notable grant goals. The biggest achievement being the reduction in the uninsured rate from 17% to 1% in 2014. This was accomplished by having 15,389 approved ACA Adult Medicaid applications in addition to 4,428 Marketplace enrollments. *Data is still not complete as far as special populations like All-kids, which does not track new enrollments, nor can we tell how many applications we completed were successfully approved. Winnebago County was second in the state only to Cook County in 2014 for total Adult Medicaid enrollments.

The ACA Adult Medicaid had 1,732 more approvals in Winnebago County than the 2012 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SHAIE) data shown were eligible, thus enrollment was 112% of the eligible population. The Medicaid Approval rate is still expected to climb in 2015 as Open Enrollment for Medicaid is year round, and the Marketplace Open Enrollment does not close until 2015. Thus, WCHD expects the uninsured rate to continue to fall locally.

Outreach on the ACA Law and ACA Education was done extensively in 2014. Over 428 ACA Education Presentations were held with over 4,882 in attendance. An additional 463 community booths/informational table events were held throughout Winnebago County with an attendance of over 20,486 people stopping by booths. That totals 25,368 people being introduced to the ACA in our community and given the resources they need to access health insurance. In addition 192 media events (TV, Radio, and Print) were conducted to try to reach the additional local population that was not accessible in person. A social media campaign was also conducted via Facebook and Twitter throughout the year.

The role of the public health workforce is to promote health and prevent disease. Winnebago County Health Department’s staff is composed of professionals with various expertise, academic backgrounds, and work experience. Public health departments capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st Century will need to demonstrate their ability to improve and standardize core capabilities for public health practice. A transformational public health system requires dealing with voluminous information from multiple sources, the ability to engage more stakeholders and develop stronger links to the health care delivery system. This will require a modernized public health workforce with a makeup of a combination of specialists and more generalists, with training and skills in informatics, use of technology, leadership, community organizing, mobilizing and marketing and the ability to focus resources on population-based health improvement. This will include an emphasis on epidemiological and informatics skills to monitor, measure, and evaluate processes, services, and outcomes. Achieving accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is driven by the ability to continuously improve workforce development in the ever-changing environment of public health practice.

In 2014, the Winnebago County Board of Health adopted the 2014-2019 strategic plan, which identified goals and objectives that aligned with accreditation guidelines for workforce development. The WCHD leadership team organizes quarterly and mandatory staff education meetings to gather the entire team for important trainings and updates on WCHD initiatives.

In 2014, trainings were conducted in the areas of: blood borne pathogens, HIPAA/Privacy and Confidentiality Rules, Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) training, and FEMA training.
In 2014, the Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) Quality Committee reviewed, developed, implemented, and evaluated quality improvement initiatives with the overarching goal of improving the health outcomes for the residents of Winnebago County. Staff are involved in all levels of WCHD and participate in quality improvement initiatives based on their professional qualifications, educational background, and functional roles to ensure delivery of high quality, effective, and efficient interventions.

The Winnebago County Health Department demonstrated its commitment to quality improvement in 2014 by applying for accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) which is driven by continuous quality improvement.

In 2014, WCHD, the Rockford Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program celebrated its 2 year anniversary. In recognition of this, and in an effort to create more recognizable branding, the Rockford MIECHV Program changed names to iGrow Rockford. As part of this new branding, the collaborative revised program promotional materials, introduced the iGrow quarterly newsletter and developed an iGrow Rockford website.

The purpose of iGrow is to deliver coordinated home visiting services to pregnant women, infants, and young children in identified high-risk communities, with goals of improving health and development outcomes and strengthening families.

Winnebago County Health Department serves as a Coordinated Intake site and assists families in determining the services and supports that are best suited for their needs and provide referrals to the partner home visiting agencies. The four partner agencies offer evidence based home visiting services to pregnant women and children. Through the local home visiting programs, nurses, social workers, or other trained home visitors meet with at-risk families in their homes, evaluate the families’ circumstances, and connect families to the type of assistance that can make a real difference in a child’s health, development, and ability to learn – such as health care, development services for children, early evaluation, parenting skills, child abuse prevention, and nutrition education or assistance.

In 2014, 992 families were screened through coordinated intake resulting in 553 families being referred into evidence based home visiting services.

The iGrow Partnership includes: WCHD, City of Rockford Human Services, La Voz Latina, Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago, and Rockford Public Schools District 205.
The year 2014 was a year of transition as the Winnebago County Health Department welcomed a new Administrator, Dr. Sandra Martel, RN, DNP in September. Dr. Martel took over for the previous Administrator Maichle Bacon, MPH, CPHA, RS, who retired after a 43 year career in public health.

The Health Department began the Accreditation process in 2014. The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is a nationwide voluntary public health accreditation process focused on improving the quality of public health practice and services provided by state and local public health agencies. Local public health departments serve as a unique and essential component of an integrated health system that looks out for the population as a whole, rather than focus on the health outcomes of the individual. Every day, public health professionals work to keep our community healthy and safe.

In 2015, the Winnebago County Health Department will be reviewed by the PHAB to assess its capacity and ability to deliver the 3 core functions (Assessment, Assurance, and Policy Development) and 10 essential services against national benchmarks.

The Board of Health supported and encouraged WCHD to seek accreditation. Thus far, WCHD has established an internal accreditation team, successfully applied to initiate the accreditation process, and is in the process of electronically accumulating all necessary documentation to substantiate that WCHD is meeting national standards and measures. Formal submittal of this documentation is set for September, 2015 which will be followed by an onsite visit of the national accreditation review team.

Additionally, plans were made in 2014 to establish the Center for Emergency Preparedness in early 2015, as emergency management is an essential tool for public safety.
### Selected Diseases

- AIDS .................................................. 15
- Bacterial Meningitis ......................... 0
- Botulism- Food Borne ......................... 1
- Cervicitis ........................................ 388
- Chlamydia ....................................... 339
- E Coli 0157 H75 ................................ 4
- Giardia ........................................... 1
- Gonorrhea ....................................... 117
- Hepatitis A ....................................... 1
- Hepatitis C (chronic) ......................... 235
- Herpes Simplex 1 .............................. 24
- Histoplasmosis .............................. 1
- HIV (newly diagnosed) .................... 7
- Legionnaires Disease ..................... 2
- Lyme Disease ................................ 14
- Salmonella .................................... 40
- Shigella ......................................... 22
- Syphilis ........................................ 5
- Tuberculosis ................................... 0
- West Nile Virus .......................... 0

### Vaccine Preventable Diseases

- Diptheria ......................................... 0
- Haemophilus Influenzae Type B ........ 2
- Hepatitis B
  - Acute ........................................ 2
  - Chronic .................................... 26
- Measles ........................................ 0
- Mumps .......................................... 2
- Pertussis ..................................... 20
- Rubella ........................................ 0
- Tetanus ......................................... 0
- Varicella ....................................... 4

### Reportable Diseases in Winnebago County

### Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Total: 7,054

### Family Case Management (FCM)
- Total: 2,558

### APORS – High Risk Infant Follow-up
- Total: 293

### Better Birth Outcomes (BBO) – High Risk Pregnant
- Total: 585

### Health Works
- Total: 389

### Healthy Childcare IL – Child Care Nurse Consultant
- Total # of providers and families: 4,590

### Immunization Contacts
- Total: 1,346

### Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) Prevention
- Total # of teens reached with evidence based curriculum: 97

### Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- Total # of teens reached with evidence based curriculum: 343

### Subsequent Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- Total # of teen mothers reached: 33
- Total # of youth reached with pregnancy prevention information: 968
### Environmental Health Data

#### Public, Private and Non-Community Water Supplies (Lab)
- Water Samples Collected: 3,799
- Non-Community: 503
- Private: 1,302
- Public: 1,994

#### Private Water Wells
- Sealing Requests Delivered: 63
- Wells Sealed: 63
- New Wells: 36
- Inspections Performed: 87
- Total Well Permits Issued: 62

#### Existing Non-Community Wells
- Surveys Performed: 72

#### Private Sewage Disposal Systems
- Installation Inspections Performed: 96
- Site Verifications Performed: 230
- Plans Processed: 6
- Soil Boring Tests Performed: 53

#### Well/Septic System Mortgage Evaluations
- Evaluations Processed: 418
- Inspections Performed: 504

#### Septic Tank Pumpers License Issued
- Total: 39

#### Pump Truck Inspections Performed
- Total: 8

#### Septic Installers Licensed Issued
- Total: 23

#### Food Service Establishment/Retail Food Stores
- Inspections Performed: 3,781
- Inspections Performed and Plan Reviews: 133
- Temporary Food Service Events: 718
- Temporary Food Service Vendor Inspections Performed: 718
- IDPH Summer Food Program Inspections Performed: 40
- Food & Food Borne Illness Complaints: 256
- Complaints Investigations Performed: 256

#### Lead Poisoning Risk Evaluations
- Total: 276

#### Tobacco Control
- Smoke Free Illinois
  - Complaints Received: 12
  - Violation Letters Initiated: 12
- Illinois Liquor Control Commission
  - Inspections Performed: 480

#### Indoor Air Quality
- Surveys Performed: 55

#### Nuisances
- Total Complaints Received: 1,907
- Housing Complaints Received: 1,247
- Nuisance Complaints Received: 660
- Nuisance Inspections/Rechecks: 660
- Total Inspections/Rechecks: 5,084
- Housing Inspections/Rechecks: 3,540
- Survey Inspections: 322

#### Swimming Pools and Spas
- Public Pool Inspections Performed: 213

#### Vector Control
- Mosquito traps: 11
- Mosquito Trap Checks: 149
- Mosquito VEC/Ram Tests Performed: 121
- Dead Birds Processed for Testing by IDPH: 36
- Larvicide Treatments Performed: 30
- Dead Bird Calls from the Community: 135

#### Tanning Facilities
- Inspections Performed: 27

#### Body Art Facilities
- Inspections Performed: 33

#### Environmental Health Data (continued)
Health Promotion & Protection

Screenings/Immunizations................................................................. 9535
Travel Immunizations.................................................................... 1268
Vision and Hearing Screenings..................................................... 13,264
Drug and Alcohol Prevention....................................................... 270
Dental (# children served)............................................................... 496
Communicable Disease (Investigation & Follow-up)....................... 456
Sexually Transmitted Diseases (Diagnosis & Treatment)............... 3,220
HIV Counseling and Testing.......................................................... 1,774
Ryan White (Medical Case Management)........................................ 467
TB Care Program (Referral Site for Testing & Active Cases).......... 1,457
Refugee Program (Screening & Referrals)........................................ 280

Women's Health
Family Planning................................................................................ 4599
Breast and Cervical Prevention (monthly average)......................... 732

Vital Statistics

Registered Births.............................................................................. 4,567
Registered Deaths........................................................................... 3,064
Number of Birth Certificates Issued.............................................. 5,971
Number of Death Certificates Issued............................................ 24,362
## Budget

### REVENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
<th>Budget – Final</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>$2,851,651</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
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<td>Medicaid/Medicare</td>
<td>$342,274</td>
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<td>$475,604</td>
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<td>Fees</td>
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<td>Federal/State &amp; Local Grants</td>
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<td>$8,919,231</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,386,448</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$13,128,795</strong></td>
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### EXPENDITURES

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<th>Actual</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
<th>Budget – Final</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center for Environmental Health Improvement</td>
<td>$2,656,932</td>
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<td>Center for Family Health Services</td>
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<td>$4,325,569</td>
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<td>Center for Health Protection &amp; Promotion</td>
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<td>Center for Emergency Preparedness</td>
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<td>Center for Management &amp; Support Services</td>
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<td>$2,154,341</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12,918,834</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$14,189,700</strong></td>
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Note: Unaudited
By Patrick T. Madigan
Director of Finance
Date: 06/16/2015
## Winnebago County 2014 Board of Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Steven Lidvall, MD, MPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>James A. Powers, MSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Ronald E. Gottschalk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Members</td>
<td>John E. Halversen, DDS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>David R. Helland, DVM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Luci Hoover</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Patricia Lewis, PhD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Daniel Saavedra</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ann Thompson-Kelly</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Allen Williams, MD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Angie Goral</td>
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<td>Susan Fernandez, RN</td>
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## Winnebago County 2014 Center Directors and Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sandra Martell, RN, DNP</td>
<td>Public Health Administrator</td>
<td>(September 2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Maichle Bacon, MPH, CPHA, RS</td>
<td>Public Health Administrator</td>
<td>Retired May 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Gonzalez, MPH, BS</td>
<td>Center for Family Health Services</td>
<td>Interim Public Health Administrator (May-August 2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd Marshall, BS</td>
<td>Center for Environmental Health Improvement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kara Biery, MHSA, BS</td>
<td>Center for Health Protection and Promotion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theresa James, CHEC III</td>
<td>Center for Emergency Preparedness</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Winnebago County Health Department
Office Locations

**Administrative Office**
401 Division Street
Rockford Illinois 61104
815-720-4000

**Clinical Services**
555 North Court Street
Rockford Illinois 61103
815-720-4000

**Mailing Address**
401 Division Street
P.O. Box 4009
Rockford Illinois 61110