

Health Director

2018-2019

This past year, we lost our beloved Health Director, Shavonna Lausterer. During her tenure as Health Director, she inspired and energized staff.

A Message from the Interim Health Director



The Health Department takes great pride in a workforce that consistently responds to the public health challenges and emerging health issues that face our diverse and growing community. Our mission is possible thanks to the good work of more than 100 community partners, elected officials, and City/County agencies. Together with our partners, the Department actively monitors and responds to the personal and environmental health needs of Lincoln and Lancaster County citizens. Below are a few examples of public health issues addressed through partner collaboration this past year:

Our Department continues to address the ever-increasing need for dental services for both children and adults. Good dental health is essential to good physical health. Our dental health clinic provides services to community members who have not been able to get dental services elsewhere. Last year, most of our 13,427 client visits were for children (70%). Through our partnership with the Community Health Endowment, we added two operatories to increase dental capacity and improve access to services.

The Health Department continued to lead a community group of health care providers, law enforcement, and treatment facilities. The goal of this community partnership is to address the opioid crisis and the escalating use of other illicit drugs in our community.

Our Child Care team worked collaboratively with child care center directors to be innovative and improve illness reporting with the goal of preventing larger outbreaks. A revised system was pilot tested, modified, and then implemented last June. The Child Care team also provided on-site consultation to help center directors implement actions to stop 9 larger outbreaks.

Our Injury Prevention team worked collaboratively with certified child passenger safety technicians to conduct car seat checks at an average of 20 community events in 2019 and two Lincoln Fire and Rescue Fitting Station events monthly. Last year, 623 car seats were checked involving over 700 hours of volunteer time.

Today we prepare for a new public health threat, Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Health Department will once again work with a diverse group of medical experts, businesses, schools, and first responders to proactively take all the necessary preparedness steps.

I'm pleased to help lead a community and a Department of dedicated employees that truly cares about public health. The Mayor, City Council, County Board of Commissioners, the Board of Health provide ongoing support to the Department, and a strong commitment and investment in the public's health. Thank you all for your support and for giving valuable time and resources that make our partnerships some of the best you will find.

Patricia D. Lopez

Mission

Protect and promote
the public's health

Vision

A well-supported
public health
system serving all
people to achieve
optimal health

Contact us

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