



# ANNUAL REPORT 1998

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Geauga County Health District is dedicated to providing public health services by detecting, educating, and preventing personal and environmental health problems in our community.

Health Commissioner  
*Susan Negron, R.N., M.S.*

Environmental Health Director  
*Robert Weisdack, R.S., M.P.H.*

Support Services Director  
*Judith A. McPeak*

Medical Director  
*J. Bradley Moritz, M.D.*

Personal Health Services Director  
*Lawrence Fergus, R.N., M.B.A.*

Registrar/Fiscal Coordinator  
*Sandra K. Gerzeny*

## Geauga County Board of Health

Stephanie Szakallas, President - *Bainbridge Township*

David W. Hudgel, M.D., Pres. Pro-tem - *Chardon Township*

Richard Lang - *Hambden Township*

Bonita Clemson - *Hambden Township*

Dan McDermott - *Newbury Township*

Term Expires: 2001

Term Expires: 2000

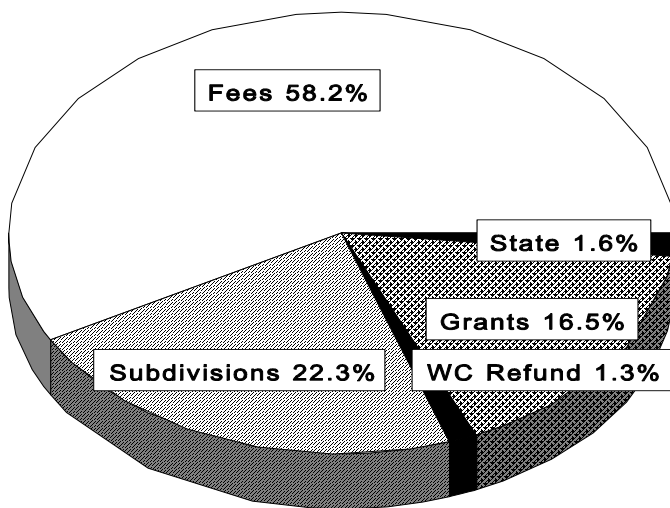
Term Expires: 1999

Term Expires: 2002

Term Expires: 2003

One board member is appointed yearly for a five year term. Board members serve as advocates for public health services and programs. This board is a quasi-judicial, policy development body tasked with determining, setting, and monitoring public health policy. They are responsible for adopting the annual budget and ensuring adequate funding for the agency.

## Financial Report - 1998 - All Funds - Board of Health, State Mandated, and Grants



## Receipts

Fees	\$1,056,391.34
Subdivision Assessments	\$404,518.00
Grants (per grant year)	\$298,973.85
State Subsidy	\$29,529.67
Worker's Comp Refund	\$24,224.02
Cash Carryover	\$691,644.95
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$2,505,281.83</b>

## Expenditures

Supplies	54,907.30
Vaccine	12,497.48
Equipment	22,308.48
Maintenance Contracts	15,297.73
Travel & Training	53,110.42
Advertising & Printing	3,176.39
Remittance to State	32,130.34
Liability Insurance	8,210.00

Personnel Costs	1,49
Telephone Service	13,758.46
Contract Services	37,628.69
State Audit	0.00
Other Expenses	43,301.49
Rent	6,125.31
Laboratory Fees	8,542.00
Remittance to State - Grants	14,190.45
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,822,284.31</b>

## Environmental Health Division (EH)

The county is continuing to go through an intense growth period which extends back for approximately ten plus years. We have seen an average of 500+ sewage disposal system installations and water wells on a yearly basis. In addition, there is an increasing demand on ground water supply. Ground water contamination is a very growing concern since 90% of the county relies on our underground water supply. The environment is changing and we must make good quality public health and safety decisions to protect the rural lifestyle and not have a detrimental effect on the environment and health of residents. One of the biggest campaigns that must be waged is the need for education that addresses environmental concerns.

Plumbing Permits	879	Food Service Operation Inspections	1,360
Plumbing Inspections	2,511	Vending Machine Inspections	46
Sewage Permits	540	Food Establishment Inspections	160
Sewage Inspections and Lot Evaluations	1,810	Trailer Park and Camp Inspections	32
Private Water System Permits	576	Swimming Pool Inspections	176
Private Water System Samples & Insp.	1,780	County Camp Inspections	18
Semi-Public Sewage Certificates	120	Nuisance Complaint Inspections	634
Semi-Public Sewage System Inspections	483	Nuisance Complaints Percent Abated	86%
Solid/Infectious Waste Inspections	690	Positive Rabies Cases Reported	0
Animal Bite Investigations	340		

### ***Rabies Surveillance, Prevention & Control Grant***

The health district is still heavily involved in the rabies surveillance program. We do not have a documented rabies case within the county at this time. In addition, the pet immunization program for rabies prevention has been a great success. The Rabies & Feral Cat Task Force efforts and educational information pertaining to rabies prevention has had a positive effect in increasing the awareness to the potential problem. Currently, the mandatory immunization of all dogs and cats is still in effect and the immunization of all pets is the best line of defense against rabies.

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## Support Services Division

The Support Services Division encompasses our administrative, environmental health, and personal health services clerical staff that provide office support for record keeping, fiscal administration, vital statistics, facilities, and human resource administration.

### **Vital Statistics**

Vital Statistics registers all births and deaths that occur in Geauga County. Residents' births and deaths occurring outside the county are not reflected in these numbers. The Vital Statistics office also issues copies of burial permits and death and birth certificates. Our medical director researches all of the death certificates filed in Geauga County to compile the mortality statistics listed below.

#### 1998 Deaths

Heart Disease	162	Blood Cancer	21
Cancer	136	Old Age	14
Infection	80	Kidney Disease	11
Lung Disease	64	Liver Disease	8
Vascular Death	36	Suicide	4
Dementia	30		
Burial Permits Issued:	217	Death Certificates Issued:	3,803

#### 1998 Births

Girls:	398	Boys:	457
Birth Certificates Issued:	1,750		

### *Support Staff*

The clerical staff are the people on the front lines who provide service to our customers by processing permits and applications, keeping our computer data current, paper records organized and accessible for staff. They answer questions basic question about our programs and services. Our 1998 statistics encompass only the support staff for environmental health and include the number of phone calls and clients they handle (not passed through to another staff member).

EH Client Visits: 4,830                      EH Client Calls: 7,037

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## **Personal Health Services Division (PHS)**

People of all ages from infants to senior citizens have access to and utilize the programs offered by the Personal Health Services Division. Clients receive services ranging from childhood immunizations, health awareness, nutritional education and assistance, to blood pressure checks and communicable disease control investigations. These services are provided at a reasonable cost as a result of the tax support received from the county townships and villages, fees, and grants awarded from the Ohio Department of Health and the Geauga Community Board of Mental Health, Alcohol, and Drug Addiction Services. These preventive health programs provide cost effective savings and decrease health care cost problems for the community.

### ***Public Health Nursing***

Public health nurses work to maintain a healthy community by managing the county's communicable disease program, by providing screenings, health education, home visits, and by conducting a variety of clinics. Many clinics are held in local churches, schools, and community centers. They work in collaboration with area school nurses, physicians, therapists, the hospital, and the community to provide diagnostic screening, immunizations, and specialty clinics that are specific to child growth, development, and prevention of diseases and disability. Adult and child preventive health services focus on home visits, immunizations, blood pressure screenings, and senior clinics.

Communicable Disease Investigations	86	Adult Immunizations Administered	2,786
Tuberculosis Tests Administered	361	Community Programs	43
Positive Tests	8	School Site Visits	122
Maternal/Newborn Home Visits	356	WIC Total Caseload	2,441
Genetic Screenings	225	Senior Clinic Participants	500
HIV Tests Administered (start date 10/97)	37	Well Child Clinics Held	23
BCMHS Visits	300	Well Child Visits	155
Specialty Clinic Visits (Ortho/Neuro)	257	Prenatal Clinics Held	34
Children's Immunizations Administered	9,388	Prenatal Visits	114
Children Attending	5,580		

### ***Health Promotion and Education***

Health promotion and education focuses on promoting healthy life-styles by offering a variety of informational materials and programs. Programs on rabies prevention, immunizations, how to talk to your physician about sensitive subjects, choosing a health care provider, and stress reduction are offered throughout the year. Community specific educational aids have been developed and include brochures on choosing a day care and when to contact a physician. Input from the community is solicited in order to appropriately direct our services.

### ***AIDS Prevention Grant Programs***

The AIDS Prevention Program works to stop the spread of AIDS and to help people affected by HIV/AIDS in Geauga County. Projects are developed and guided by the Geauga AIDS Prevention Consortium, an active group of agencies and community volunteers concerned about HIV/AIDS. Current projects include: speaker's bureau (free educational presentations), AIDS instructor training, HIV support group, community events, and free anonymous testing and counseling. The Geauga Community Board of Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services grant, Tri-County Consortium grant, and donations from concerned people fund this program.

***Child and Family Health Services & Disproportionate Service Funding Area Grants (CFHS & DSF)***

These are Ohio Department of Health programs developed to provide preventive health care for mothers and children. Early access to prenatal care is provided for expectant mothers including pregnancy testing, individualized education, periodic exams, and referrals to appropriate resources. Screenings, examinations, and referrals are provided for children 1 to 18 years of age. All services are offered on a sliding fee scale based on family size and income. Medicaid and insurance is accepted.

***Women, Infants, and Children Grant (WIC)***

WIC is a supplemental food program that provides nutritious foods and education to pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum mothers and children from birth to five years of age with special nutritional and financial needs. Clinics are held in Chardon, Middlefield, and Bainbridge. Breastfeeding promotion and support is strongly encouraged by WIC. Geauga WIC is proud to be one of 15 counties in Ohio to offer the Farmer's Market Nutrition program whereby participants receive coupons valid for fresh fruits and vegetables, locally grown. WIC is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture through the Ohio Department of Health.

***Preventive Health and Health Services Grant***

The Preventive Health and Health Services Grant targets nutrition efforts in Geauga County Public Schools. Funding for this program is from the Ohio Department of Health. The funds have been used to build a nutrition library for the county school system and sponsored support of collaborative nutrition support staff in improving the nutrition, quality, and decreasing the fat content of food in school meals. This grant has taken advantage of the collective expertise and input from the schools nutrition support staff in such areas as educational programs.

***Rabies Education Grant***

Children are attracted to both wild and domestic animals. Media representation of animals can present a false impression of safety of handling animals. Rabies has been slowly moving toward Geauga County and a concerted effort to educate our youth in safety around wild and domestic animals has been the focus of this grant. Among the activities being developed with this grant is a puppet show focused on children Kindergarten through Grade 4. A professional puppeteer is contracted to develop a show emphasizing safety and responsible actions around animals. Rabies pre-exposure vaccinations are also made available to high-risk individuals. The Ohio Department of Health funds this grant.

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“Helping to maintain a healthy community”

Geauga County Health District

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