

Since 1900, the average lifespan of U.S. residents has risen from 48 to nearly 78 years.

Advances in public health are responsible for at least 25 of those increased years.

- *Michigan's Guide to Public Health for Local Governing Entities*

## Board of Commissioners & Board of Health - A Year in Review

The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and the Washtenaw County Board of Health provide vision, leadership and policy development to make our community a safer, healthier place to live. Over the past year, the Board of Commissioners and Board of Health have taken many steps to advance the health of our citizens.

- Supported Public Health in our endeavor to become nationally accredited. Through combined efforts, Public Health was awarded national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board on August 4, 2015. This accreditation status confirms our ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability and continuous quality improvement.
- Authorized and supported the development of a Public Health owned dental clinic. The Washtenaw County Dental Clinic proudly serves adults and children who are uninsured and low income, or who are enrolled in Medicaid, MICHild or Healthy Kids. This clinic fills a gap in service to our most vulnerable residents. Since opening February 17, 2015, the clinic has enrolled over 660 patients and has provided nearly 1,400 visits.
- Approved Public Health's annual budget and our Comprehensive Planning, Budgeting and Contracting (CPBC) Agreement with the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS). Since 1987, MDHHS has funded local public and environmental health programs through this agreement, which ensures we receive funds for general communicable disease control; hearing and vision screening; immunizations; food service sanitation; sexually transmitted disease control; and various other programs which promote health and protect the environment.
- As part of our approved budget, the Board of Commissioners approved new staff positions focused on policy analysis and development, performance management and quality improvement and public health nursing. These positions will enhance service delivery within the organization and institutionalize the department's quality improvement and performance management system.
- Approved an amendment to the Washtenaw County Clean Indoor Air Regulation to include electronic smoking devices. In addition, the Board chose to extend the Regulation to cover public parks. These measures protect the health of Washtenaw County residents and visitors from involuntary exposure to aerosolized nicotine and other harmful substances.
- Authorized the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office to equip and train all county deputies to carry and dispense naloxone in the event of a suspected opiate overdose. This joint effort of Public Health, the Board of Health, Board of Commissioners, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office and other agencies reduces the time between overdose symptoms and effective treatment, preventing deaths and permanent injuries. Three lives have already been saved by county deputies administering naloxone to opioid overdose victims!

**Although not specifically Washtenaw County Public Health efforts, the Board of Commissioners has continued to demonstrate their commitment to health for all in our community with the following measures:**

- Declared the month of October 2014 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Washtenaw County, bringing awareness to this serious issue and honoring the men and women whose diligence and professionalism helps to keep Washtenaw County's survivors of domestic violence safe.
- Authorized the County Administrator to allocate funds for the 2014-15 winter emergency shelter and warming center response, assisting those in need of emergency winter shelter during one of the coldest winters on record.
- Established the Washtenaw County Identification Card Program, providing a means of proving residency in the County. This important project ensures that all of our residents have the ability to connect to public safety, civic and community services.

### For more information:

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