

# 2014 Annual Report



## Seneca County General Health District

### President's Message

As defined by the esteemed bacteriologist Charles-Edward Amory Winslow, "Public Health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through organized and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private, communities and individuals". That's quite a responsibility and alone is quite a task. However, there's so much more work to be accomplished. As a Health District, we must also deal with many other obstacles and challenges.

Accreditation, audits, grant writing

and a levy are only a few of these challenges that the staff must contend with day in and day out. These obstacles have been met while coping with the retirement of some very dedicated employees that have served the community for years. Replacing faithful staff members is never easy and I'm very pleased with the excellent teamwork shown by the entire staff in welcoming our new members to the team.

Beth Schweitzer has served as Health Commissioner for over a year, my how time flies by! The

board feels that she is doing a wonderful job guiding the Seneca County General Health District through challenges and opportunities that we as a community face.

It's with great pleasure that I have the opportunity to serve as board president and speaking on behalf of myself, and the board at large, we thank you for your dedication and service to Seneca County.

-Eric D. Griffin, DC DACNB Board President

### From the Health Commissioner

I am very pleased to be writing my first letter to the community in Seneca County General Health District's 2014 Annual Report. Since I came to the health department a year ago I have felt warmly welcomed by health department staff, the Board of Health, and by the community and am looking forward to meeting and building relationships with more community partners. Also, I am very pleased with my staff's dedication to public health and to serving our residents.

Public health is constantly evolving and with each new endeavor comes improvement or challenge or both. In 2014 the department began to work on accreditation which is now required of all Ohio

health departments by state law. Meeting the standards which are required in accreditation will make our department even better and help us to better serve our community.

In 2014 we saw the emergence of an infectious disease never before diagnosed in the United States in the form of Ebola, which touched us close to home. The Ohio Department of Health is realigning their priorities and with this comes changes in the allocation of dollars. Unfortunately due to these changes, we had to discontinue our adolescent sexual health clinic.

We are very excited to start extended hours on the fourth Thursday of the month

until 7:00 p.m. In addition to Women Infants and Children (WIC) who have been offering services on Thursday evenings, now Nursing, Environmental Health and Vital Statistics employees will be available to provide immunizations, septic and well permits, and birth and death certificates.

Always very much appreciated is the support of you, the public, through your tax dollars. Without you the health department would not be able to offer the broad spectrum of services that we provide today. I look forward to many more years here as your health commissioner.

- Beth Schweitzer MPH  
MCHES

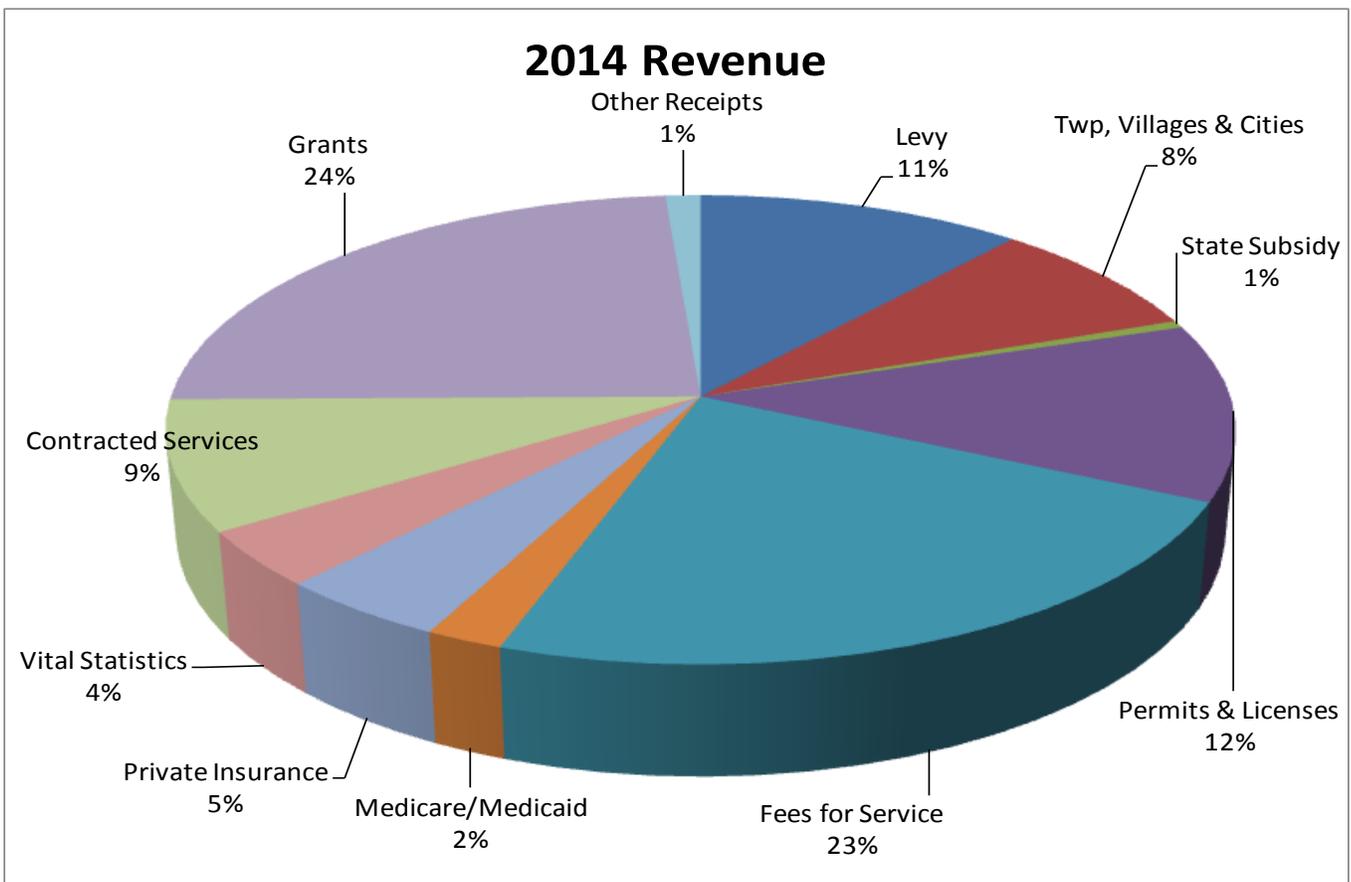
"And I believe that the best buy in public health today must be a combination of regular physical exercise and a healthy diet."  
- Julie Bishop

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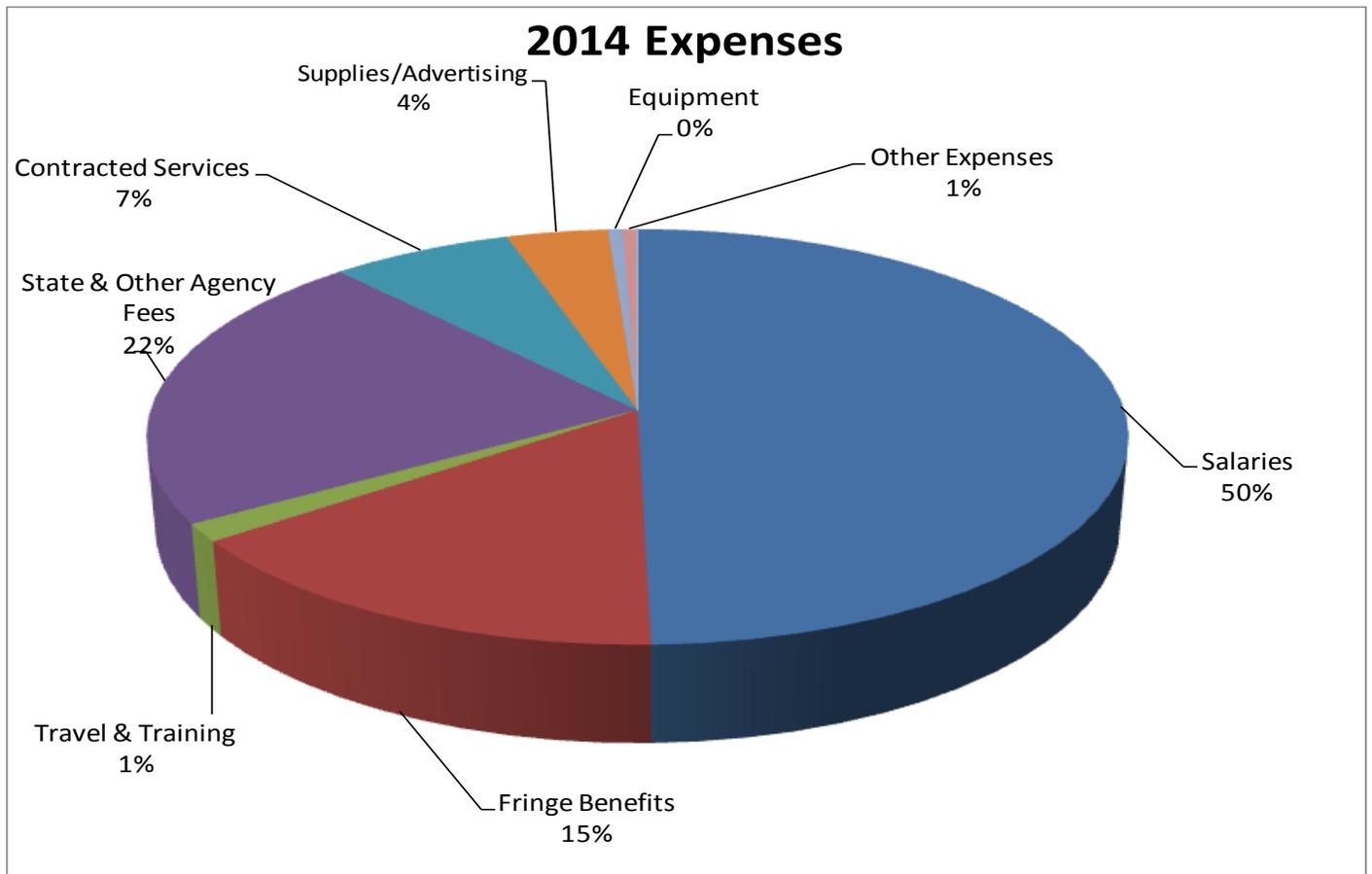
## REVENUES 2014

Levy	\$265,026.00	11.3%
Twp, Villages & Cities	\$190,000.00	8.1%
State Subsidy	\$11,551.01	0.5%
Permits & Licenses	\$286,308.36	12.2%
Fees for Service	\$543,510.95	23.2%
Medicare/Medicaid	\$48,091.92	2.0%
Private Ins.	\$107,144.93	4.6%
Vital Statistics	\$90,886.40	3.9%
Contracted Services	\$210,623.45	9.0%
Grants	\$561,875.01	24.0%
Other Receipts	\$28,474.20	1.2%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$2,343,492.38</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## EXPENDITURES 2014

Salaries	\$1,164,899.14	49.6%
Fringe Benefits	\$358,346.63	15.3%
Travel & Training	\$33,157.78	1.4%
State/Other Agency Fees	\$516,537.00	22.0%
Contracted Services	\$160,319.67	6.8%
Supplies/Advertising	\$88,990.78	3.8%
Equipment	\$12,822.85	0.5%
Other Expenses	\$12,984.87	0.6%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,348,058.72</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## Environmental Division

The Environmental Health Division continues to protect Seneca County residents by inspecting restaurants, new well construction, septic systems, swimming pools, campgrounds, tattoo parlors, animal bites, landfills, and nuisance complaints. Please visit the health district website as we are continually making improvements to provide more information and more forms for your convenience.

### Food Service

In 2014 there were a number of new food businesses opening in Seneca County. This economic development for our county is wonderful news and looks to be continuing into 2015, however, it is important that anyone thinking of opening a new food business (or purchasing an existing business) be aware of the need for a comprehensive plan review process. Before opening a new restaurant, bar, convenience store, or any establishment that requires a food service license, a plan review needs to be completed first. This does require time and planning from the business owner in advance. Opening a new facility is not as easy as paying for the license and opening immediately, a plan review needs to be completed and approved prior to licensing. Some of the requirements for a plan review include facility drawings, an equipment list, a menu or list of food that will be sold, and plumbing, electrical, fire and building inspections/approvals. Several employees will also need to complete a food safety course. For more information or to get a plan review packet, contact the Environmental Health Division. The Environmental

Health Division will work with owners to make the plan review process as simple and stream-lined as possible.

### Radon Testing

The Environmental Health Division has been providing free radon test kits for homeowners of Seneca County for over a decade now. These free test kits are available directly from the manufacturer for use in your home. Radon is a naturally occurring gas that is tasteless, odorless, and colorless. The only way to know if your home contains unhealthy levels of radon gas is to test. Radon gas exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. Please contact us to take advantage of this grant-funded service.

### Solid Waste

The Seneca County General Health District is classified as an approved health district by the Ohio EPA. This allows the Seneca County General Health District to administer and enforce the provisions of Chapters 3714 and 3734 of the Ohio Revised Code with regard to solid waste facilities, infectious waste facilities and construction and demolition debris facilities. The Health District is responsible for issuing licenses to facilities, as well as performing inspections of facilities and initiating enforcement actions against owners and operators failing to comply with Ohio's environmental rules. The Ohio EPA's Division of Materials and Waste Management conduct an annual survey of the Health District to determine if it is meeting the program obligations throughout the year.

Through this program, the Health Dis-

trict inspects the Sunny Farms Landfill LLC., the closed Seneca East Recycling and Disposal Facility, the Tiffin and Fostoria Hospitals' infectious waste handling, and the Tiffin and Fostoria composting operations.

Sunny Farms Landfill, LLC is located in Loudon Township south of Fostoria. The facility is licensed as a municipal solid waste facility. Sunny Farms receives waste both by truck and rail. Solid waste haulers bring waste from the surrounding communities. Rail cars hauling solid waste and construction and demolition debris are received on a daily basis. Waste received from rail cars amount to 94 percent of the total annual receipts. Total waste receipts average 3,400 tons per day, their Authorized Maximum Daily Waste Receipts (AMDWR) is 7,500 tons per day. The Seneca County General Health District is required to inspect Sunny Farms on a quarterly basis. The Health District inspects the facility on a monthly basis, and additional inspections are done if needed.

Seneca East Recycling and Disposal Facility is a closed municipal solid waste landfill owned by Waste Management. Seneca East RDF is located in Scipio Township, northeast of Republic. Because the facility has been closed, the Health District inspects Seneca East RDF annually.

The Fostoria and Tiffin composting facilities are inspected annually. The facilities compost yard waste from both cities.

The infectious waste program requires an annual inspection. The sanitarian checks for proper handling, disposal, and record keeping of infectious waste generated at the facilities.

### 2014 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STATISTICS

214 Food Service Operations  
 92 Retail Food Establishments  
 44 Mobile Food Establishments  
 58 Vending Food Establishments  
 88 Temporary Foods  
 34 Swimming Pools  
 5 Recreational Camps

4 Resident Camps  
 5 Bathing Beaches  
 16 School Districts  
 3 Tattoo Establishments  
 14 Scavengers  
 1 Water Haulers  
 17 Household Septic System Installers

9 Service Providers  
 61 Well Permits Issued  
 37 Septic Permits Issued  
 161 Nuisance Complaints Investigated  
 115 Animal Bites Reported  
 2 Jails

## Nursing Division

During 2014, the staff of the Community Health Nursing Division of the Seneca County General Health District continued to provide services intended to fulfill core public health functions by emphasizing health promotion and disease prevention and control. Comprehensive health services were provided to individuals, families, and the community-at-large through targeted interventions and programs including child, adolescent, and adult health, communicable disease control and prevention, immunization, and education.

The Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) program continues to assist families, in our county, with children with special health care needs. Through home visits, phone calls and interactions at clinics, the BCMh nurse assists families in finding providers, obtaining needed services, and answering questions regarding the program. Currently there are 291 children active in Seneca County on the Diagnostic, Treatment, and Service Coordination programs. In 2014, 84 home visits were made, 27 new Treatment cases were added and 86 Diagnostic Letters of Approval were initiated. The Pediatric Cardiology Clinic, which was originally a specialty clinic through The Ohio Department of Health, continues to be held at Tiffin Mercy Hospital. Registered Nurses from the Seneca County General Health District continue to work this clinic, monthly, with Dr. William Suarez, a BCMh provider. Last year 114 children were seen at this clinic. All new patients are offered the BCMh Diagnostic program, which will cover the costs of testing done to determine if a child does have a condition that will require ongoing treatment. Established patients are also offered information on the Treatment program. While Vision Clinics are no longer held, the Health District continues to work with the Ohio Prevents Blindness program to offer vouchers for eye exams and glasses to those children who qualify.

Since 1999, the Health Options for Teens clinic served the adolescent population for various health needs. This

medical clinic provided preventative health care for Seneca County males and females ages 12 thru 20 years. A total of 2,024 client visits were made to this monthly clinic over the last 16 years. Female clients had a <1% positive pregnancy rate. In August 2014, the clinic closed due to cessation of funding from the Ohio Department of Health. Adolescents seen at the clinic were referred to other local services for continued care.

In Ohio, 3 babies die in unsafe sleep environments each week. Due to this staggering statistic, the Nursing Division of the Seneca County General Health District joined the campaign to promote awareness and educate families about infant safe sleep practices. Since July 2014, nurses have been educated and trained on infant safe sleep strategies. This includes working with our community service providers and health professionals to help spread the word!

Lead testing is offered to Seneca County residents with emphasis on children ages 6 months thru 6 years of age. We provided lead testing to adults working in the field of construction due to state requirements for lead testing when working with lead based paint. The Lead Clinic was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month in Tiffin. A total of 41 blood lead tests were done in 2014. There should be no traces of lead in a child's blood. Lead case management is provided to children with a lead level of 10 or higher. A home visit is made to obtain information and to educate the family to ensure the child's lead level is decreased. An environmental inspection is completed and the family is given a smoke detector, carbon monoxide detector, and fire extinguisher if needed. During 2014, case management was provided for 7 lead poisoned children and their families. Home visits with education on cleaning, home renovation, diet, follow-up blood tests and more to aid in lowering the lead level were provided to those families. A total of 55 contacts were made with these children and families.

Susan G. Komen community grant

funding allowed us to provide a mobile mammogram event to un/underinsured women 40 years of age and older. We held the screening event on March 12, 2014 and provided 26 women with a mammogram that they otherwise would not have received. We also provided 17 educational programs on Breast Self-Awareness to women in Seneca County. Programs were provided at the Seneca County Juvenile Detention Center, CROSSWAEH correctional facility, area high schools and outreach to the community reaching 201 women. The focus of the education is knowing and understanding your risk, screening options, knowing what is normal for you, and making healthy lifestyle choices.

The Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) seeks to reduce teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection rates in Ohio youth ages 14 thru 19 who reside in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. It is a regional Ohio Department of Health grant funded program. Grant funding is awarded to the Summit County Health District and we sub-contract to provide the program in Seneca, Sandusky, Hancock, Wyandot, Erie, Marion, and Crawford counties. We finished the 4<sup>th</sup> year of a 5 year grant cycle in 2014, providing training on the evidence-based "Reducing-the-Risk" curriculum to staff of Juvenile Justice and Foster Care systems in our 7 counties. The trained staff then provides the 16 hour/19 sessions to adolescents in their care. The SCGHD staff co-facilitates a minimum of 8 sessions with newly trained staff and 2 sessions with staff trained prior to August 1, 2014.

Passport, Respite, Personal Care, and Homemaker programs funded by grants and contracts from the Ohio Department of Aging and the Allen Eiry Foundation offer services to our senior clients ages 60+. We also provide in home care for persons with Genworth long term care insurance. Our state tested nurse aides provided 3,019 hours of service in our client's homes during 2014.

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## Nursing Division

Senior health check clinics are held once a month at a Tiffin location and once a month at the Fostoria Senior Center. There are also two clinics yearly at the New Riegel American Legion site. The clinics are open to anyone age 60 or older who is a resident of Seneca County or who lives within the city limits of Fostoria. Services may include blood pressure screening, urinalysis, blood sugar testing, weight, hemoglobin check, lung assessments, medication review and overall physical assessment. A client may choose to have any or all of the services. All findings are reviewed with the client and they are encouraged to share the information with their health care provider. In 2014, the clinics provided 272 health checks.

Nursing services were again provided at the Seneca County Juvenile Detention Center. The nurses complete physical assessments, address medical issues, set up medications and offer education. 255 assessments were completed last year. Nursing services were also provided at CROSSWAEH Community Based Correctional Facility. There are approximately 60 men and 36 women housed at CROSSWAEH. Nurses are at the facility 4 days each week and complete initial health assessments, assist the physician with physical assessment and testing, and address medical issues as they arise. In 2014, 213 clients were seen for their initial assessment.

Communicable disease can affect anyone of any age. When a disease is reported to us, the infectious disease nurse begins investigation of the client to determine if the report supports a confirmed diagnosis, evaluation of symptoms, contact information, travel history, food consumption, laboratory testing and results, treatment and follow up care. Each disease has its own criteria for investigation and follow-up. Once information is obtained, it is entered into the Ohio Disease Reporting System. By doing this, the Ohio De-

partment of Health and the CDC can monitor outbreaks and trends, thus warning the public of potential dangers and educating them in measures to reduce disease transmission. In 2014, 235 disease investigations were conducted for campylobacter, chlamydia, cryptosporidiosis, E.coli, giardiasis, gonorrhea, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, invasive group A strep, invasive strep pneumonia, legionella, mycobacterium other than TB, pertussis and salmonellosis. There were no cases of Tuberculosis in Seneca County in 2014.

School nurses provide services at Bridges Academy, St. Wendelin, Bettsville, Hopewell-Loudon, Mohawk, New Riegel, and Old Fort schools. Vision, hearing, and scoliosis screenings are done, immunization compliance checks are completed, and health care plans are written for children with medical conditions. The nurses attend kindergarten screenings and meet with parents to discuss the incoming student's health and any health related concerns. During 2014, 30 health education programs were presented to classrooms and staff and approximately 3,052 student contacts were made.

In 2014, the Health District became a provider for many medical insurance plans and began billing for immunization services. Over 9,611 doses of vaccine were administered to children and adults at our Tiffin and Fostoria immunization clinics. We are proud that our immunization compliance rate is 86% as we strive to achieve the 90% goal set forth by the CDC. Education was increased throughout the county for professionals and residents and parents were surveyed to determine further educational needs. The Health District's website, [www.senecahealthdept.org](http://www.senecahealthdept.org) and the District's Facebook page were utilized for immunization education.

One hundred and fifty (150) children in 3 childcare centers were reached with the "Let's Move! Childcare" edu-

cational program as part of our Child and Family Health Services project targeted at reducing childhood obesity. Each childcare center was provided with 6 monthly activity/nutrition guides that included daily activity and nutrition tips for parents to engage in with their child. 177 Kindergarten students in 4 school districts were educated using the "My Plate" education program. Discussions were held regarding which foods belong in each food group and healthy activities were done. The students received MyPlate posters, a lesson booklet, and veggie and get active stickers.

Under the Ohio Buckle Buckeyes Program funded by ODH, free car seats are provided to WIC income eligible families who do not have a safe car seat for their child. Education is provided on car seat safety, laws and installation. In 2014, 71 car seats were provide to families in need.

This report is by no means all inclusive of the programs offered through the Division of Community Health Nursing. We offer CPR and first aid classes, communicable disease classes for day care providers, pregnancy testing and referral, TB testing, pediculosis assessments and education, the community health nurses serve on numerous consortiums and collaboratives, and we offer a variety of health education programs to the community.





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Monday—Friday

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Monday—Wednesday  
8:00—7:00 p.m.  
Thursday  
8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
Friday



**Board of Health**

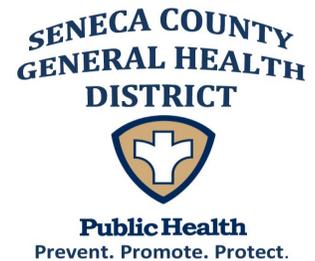
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Betsy Faeth, V. Pres.  
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Rebecca Shank  
Ken Shellhouse  
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John Ross, M.D.



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James Mohrman, RS  
Heather Panuto, Clerical  
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Hillary Hohman, Clerk

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Jackie Mendoza, LD  
Teresa Reinhart, Clerical  
Eve-Marie Saldivar, Peer Bstfd Asst.

*“...improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and re-search for disease and injury prevention.”*