



Delaware Health and Social Services

Department of Health and Social Services

Division of Public Health

**Joint Finance Committee Hearing
Fiscal Year 2017 Governor's Recommended Budget**

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Division Director***

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Delaware Health and Social Services

Senator McDowell, Representative Smith, members of the Joint Finance Committee and members of the public, I am Dr. Karyl Rattay, Director of the Division of Public Health (DPH). With me today is Crystal Webb, the DPH Deputy Director.

The material distributed today is comprised of two handouts. The first handout details our FY 17 Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB), which I'll be talking about shortly. The other packet contains an overview of our agency, program updates, as well as some of our accomplishments since we were here last year.



Delaware Health and Social Services

Overview of Public Health

- Our mission is to protect & improve the health of all people in Delaware.
- We are committed to achieving the greatest impact on the health of all people in Delaware by using resources in the most efficient way to achieve desired results.
- Our vision is healthy people in healthy communities.
- Prevention is key to public health.

Delaware Health and Social Services

The Division's vision is healthy people in healthy communities. Our mission is to protect and improve the health of all people in Delaware. We do that in many different ways, and even though these are very difficult times, DPH has still been able to continue to provide quality services to our citizens.

A goal of public health is to foster a state of healthy Delawareans who will help strengthen our economy by creating a more productive workforce and will lessen the burden on medical costs by lowering the need for intensive treatment for chronic disease. We are committed to achieving the greatest impact on the health of all people in Delaware by using resources in the most efficient way to achieve desired results.

Prevention is the key to public health. Public health prevention initiatives not only save lives, but also yield excellent returns on investment. For example, for every \$1 spent to prevent chronic disease, we can save \$5.60 in healthcare dollars.

Before reviewing the Governor's Recommended Budget, let me begin with some of the positive things that we have been able to do and challenges that we face.



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Benefits of National Accreditation

- Identify opportunities for improvement
- Increased credibility and accountability
- Recognition for excellence in public health practice
- Opportunity to engage the public health workforce
- Potential funding advantages

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For the past several years, DPH has been working toward becoming a nationally accredited health department. National accreditation for health departments is voluntary. Since the launch of the national accreditation program in 2011, 96 governmental public health departments have achieved accreditation, including only nine state health departments. To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of public health quality standards and measures.

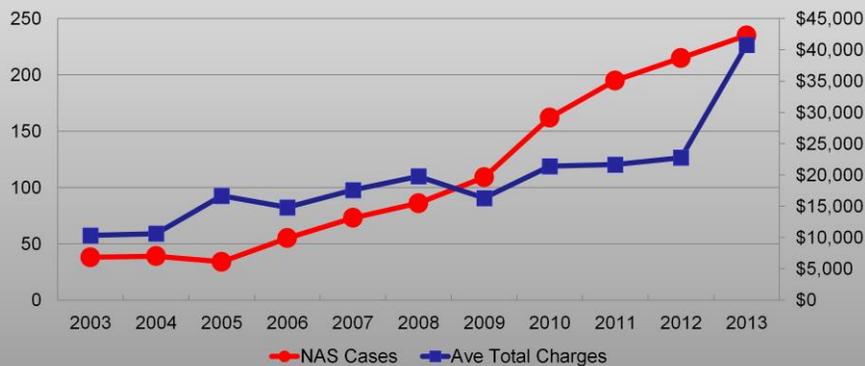
In November, we had a site visit from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). While we will not know our official status until sometime in March, I'm pleased to report that of 108 standards, DPH was rated fully or largely compliant with 97.5% of the standards. The site visit report stated that "Delaware Division of Public Health is a state health department that is functioning at a high level of achievement as measured by the national PHAB standards."



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Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Number of NAS Cases and Average Total Charges due to Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) by Discharge Year, DE 2003-2013

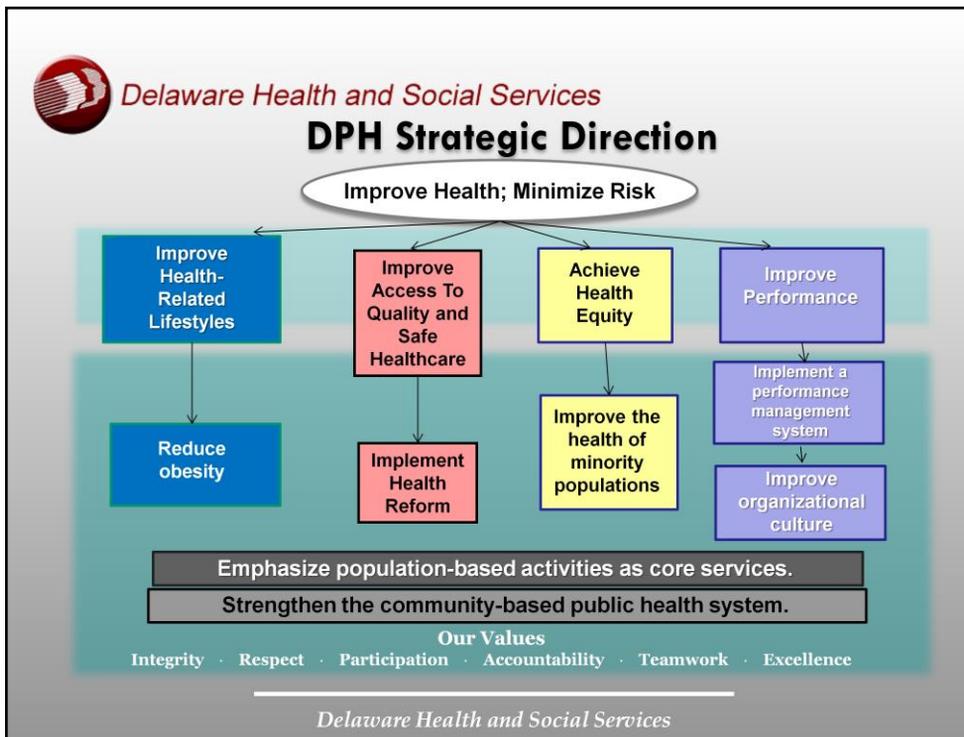


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DPH is directing its energies to addressing an evolving epidemic in Delaware---an increase in the number of neonatal drug-exposed babies and new evidence on the significant long-term impacts of alcohol use during pregnancy. Over the past decade and with your support, DPH and its partners have worked hard to increase the number of healthy women and healthy babies in our State. We have made progress, but are now opening a new chapter as we shine a bright light on the dangers of drug and alcohol use during pregnancy. We must ensure coordinated services are available and remind the public that drugs or alcohol during pregnancy can hurt their baby.

In order to address this issue, DPH is increasing:

- Coordination between DPH and the DSCYF in the Home Visiting and Child Development Watch programs in order to recognize the signs of addiction and take steps to ensure women and families have the information and support they need.
- Coordination of services between DSAMH and DPH to better support women enrolled in our Healthy Women, Healthy Babies; Home Visiting; and Child Development Watch programs and DSAMH substance use disorder treatment programs.
- Community education for reproductive age and pregnant women on the importance of not using drugs or alcohol during conception or pregnancy.
- Access to the most effective birth control methods so that women can become pregnant when they are ready.
- New provider education resources to help physicians and other health care providers identify substance use disorder in their patients and offer referrals to substance abuse treatment services.



As a prevention-focused agency, DPH is dedicated to working with other state agencies and our many partners to build a healthier future for all Delawareans. To that end, we continue to work towards achieving the priorities that we have identified based on data and the input of many partners, which are to:

- Promote healthy lifestyles and address the obesity and diabetes epidemics;
- Support the implementation of the State Innovation Model health transformation plan, ensuring that our health system becomes more integrated and prevention-oriented and working with partners to build healthy neighborhoods;
- Achieve health equity by working with communities that have the poorest health outcomes to address their most important determinants of health;
- Become an accredited state health agency; and
- Address the epidemic of the misuse and abuse of prescription drugs.

In connection with our Health Equity initiative, we are very proud of our new *Health Equity Guide for Public Health Practitioners and Partners*. This comprehensive tool was developed by DPH and members of the University of Delaware’s School of Public Policy & Administration. We hope it empowers communities to address social and environmental conditions that underlie most health problems.



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Thank you for the opportunity to discuss our progress and the challenges and opportunities that the future presents to us as we work together to improve the health of our citizens.

I will be happy to answer any questions that you have.