



EDISON

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Edison Department of Health & Human Services 2018 Annual Report - 2019 Goals and Objectives

I am pleased to provide you this short summary of 2018 activities and 2019 goals for the Department of Health & Human Services. We are very fortunate to have a staff of well skilled, talented and dedicated employees that on a daily basis provide services to the residents of Edison. I have highlighted particular quality of life areas that I feel are of significance.

Health Administration:

2018 Registrar of Vital Statistics

We currently are staffed with 1 Registrar and 1 Deputy Registrar. The Deputy Registrar retired August 2018. The position remains open.

Listed below are highlights from the year 2018:

- A total of **424 new marriage licenses** were issued.
- A total of **7397 certified copies** of birth, death and marriages were processed.
- Total fees collected for the above activities: **\$175,232**
- State required computer software for the above activities was installed and implemented along with staff training to improve efficiency and accuracy. A new database was implemented for historic records.

Public Health Nursing:

2018 PHN Activities:

The Public Health Nursing (PHN) division is staffed with 2 full time and 3 part-time registered nurses along with 1 secretary and 1 clerk Listed below are highlights of services provided to the community from this division.

- A total of 423 vaccines were provided to school aged children at monthly immunization clinics. Vaccines are provided at no cost from the NJ State Department of Health.
- A total of 164 physicals were conducted on school aged children at monthly clinics
- Public health nursing (PHN) staff reviewed 2,725 immunization records during audits of 32 day care facilities for compliance with State regulations.
- PHN staff reviewed 4,260 immunization records during audits of 28 public and private schools for compliance with State regulations.
- Maternal fetal health and child health conference (children aged 2 months to 5 years) provided ongoing health maintenance for 24 children.
- WIC (Women Infants & Children) – mothers and infants screened at clinics offered twice monthly. A total of 514 screenings were performed.
- Childhood Lead Poisoning investigations – currently managing 56 open cases of children with elevated blood lead levels.
- A total of 21 Un-insured adults were vaccinated through the “317” program.
- Flu shots – PHN vaccinated 7 Seniors, 4 general public and 132 Township employees for a total of 143 individuals.
- Hepatitis B – PHN administered Hepatitis B vaccinations to children, adults and 2 newly hired Township Police & Fire personnel.
- Mantoux testing for residents for employment and or school/facility admissions: 146.
- TB/DOT home visits: 0.
- STD Clients seen in office: 101, STD clients treated in office: 38.
- HIV Clients tested in office: 57.
- 291 different communicable disease investigations, including 3 nursing home outbreaks and an extended Legionella investigation were conducted.
- Vision screenings were scheduled with the NJ State Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. A total of 21 individuals were screened with 3 referrals for corrective lenses.

2019 PHN Goals

- Continued participation in the “317” immunization program.
- Additional and cross-training in LeadTrax, NJISS and CDRSS for part-time nursing staff.

Environmental/Housing Inspection Division:

2018 Inspection Highlights:

The environmental and housing division is staffed with a total of five (6) Registered Environmental Health Specialists who conducted a total of 3824 inspections during 2018. Many of these inspections are highlighted below:

- **2,514 Rental reoccupancy inspections of rental housing units**
- 49 School inspections
- 346 Restaurant inspections
- 250 Retail food establishment inspections
- 67 Wholesale (warehouse) food inspections
- 81 Public pool inspections
- 343 Temporary retail food inspections at special events
- 10 Youth camp inspections
- 6 Hotel inspections
- 32 Child care establishments
- 33 Laundromats/Laundry Rooms
- 61 Barber shop inspections
- Other facilities inspected were adult day care (9), assisted living (3) and nursing home facilities (4), frozen dessert establishments (16)

2018 Complaint Investigations

Along with the inspections listed above, Registered Environmental Health Specialists investigated a total of **3,204 complaints**. Highlights of these investigations are listed below:

- **1407 Property Maintenance complaints**
- **1000 Housing complaints**
- 339 Solid waste (garbage/litter/dumping) complaints
- 139 Weeds and High grass complaints
- 28 Noise pollution complaints
- 76 Food related complaints
- 81 Animal related complaints
- 61 Insect/Rodent complaints
- 13 Massage establishment complaints
- 4 Childhood lead poisoning investigations in conjunction with PHN staff

2018 Enforcement Actions

In 2018 465 summonses were issued resulting in greater than \$135,000 in fines (2017:\$83,000) & (2016: \$68,000) assessed to violators of housing, property maintenance, noise pollution, massage therapy operations, along with food and animal related complaints.

In lieu of court actions, a total of 8 vacant properties were maintained by the Township of Edison as lien actions. This process allowed for the Township to address property maintenance quality of life issues in a more expeditious manner.

2019 Enforcement Goals

We plan for more surveillance of vacant properties to address issues prior to the receipt of complaints however welcome information provided by residents to alert us of quality of life issues.

Electronic Waste (E-Waste) Recycling

A major quality of life issue throughout the Township over the past few years was old televisions left at curbside and the lack of a place to dispose of old computers, monitors and printers. This was due to the lack of an available approved recycling vendor. In conjunction with Middlesex County Solid Waste, in November 2016 Edison hosted a single day E-Waste collection event in Papaianni Park. In 2017, in collaboration with Edison Health Department, Edison DPW and Middlesex County Edison hosted two (2) County E-Waste collection days on April 1st and November 4th. This program was only offered in Edison. In 2018 this collaboration continued with the following results:

April 7th – 48,121 pounds of E-Waste was collected from 551 County residents

September 29th – 51,541 pounds of E-Waste was collected from 584 County residents

Division of Seniors/Transportation:

2018 Division of Seniors Accomplishments

The Division of Senior Citizen Services has as full-time staff of nine to include the Assistant Director of Aging, Transportation Coordinator, Secretary, Clerk along with five (5) full time transportation drivers and one (1) part-time driver. The center also serves as host for the Middlesex County Senior Meals program.

Listed below are highlights of services provided to Edison residents.

- State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) – Counseling was provided to 229 residents to guide in their selection of Medicare coverage for 2018/2019.
- The center once again served as host over 120 residents of Edison and 5 area municipalities for the annual 90th Birthday Bash celebration.
- In collaboration with the students and faculty of Edison High School, 84 Edison seniors participated in the “Senior, Senior Prom” held at Edison High School.
- Senior and non-senior residents were also provided assistance in completing Homestead Rebate Applications, Energy Assistance Program Applications, Property Tax Reimbursement applications along with Affordable Care Act information and enrollment assistance.
- A total of **236 registered individuals** received a total of 7533 meals at the center in 2018. Furthermore, **143 Edison residents** received home delivered meals 5 days a week. In total, greater than **34,728 meals** were provided to Edison residents through the senior meals program in 2018.
- The center once again was as distribution center for farmers’ market vouchers which were issued to 45 income qualifying residents.
- The center offered numerous off-site trips to include regular “lunch bunch” restaurant outings, Plays in the Park, Woodbridge Township Summer Concert Series, Columbus Flea Market and Special Holiday Shopping Excursions.
- In October of 2017, the Jolin Food Box Program program began as a means to provide residents with quality food at discounted prices. Each box contained a variety of food items such as frozen meats, vegetables, fish, and juices, which are purchased through the program at wholesale prices. The program was a great success however the organization discontinued the program in May 2018. During the months of January – April 2018 **97 boxes were purchased by 58 families.**
- **In 2018 the Department of Public Works in conjunction with CDBG completed upgrades to the exterior of the building to include a new roof, siding and gutters.**

- In 2018 division implemented a new “Dial A Ride” program which will provides transportation for residents to pharmacies, banks and other facilities as schedules permit. 71 Dial A Ride trips were provided in 2018.

2019 Division of Seniors Goals & Objectives

- In September a new software program entitled *MySeniorCenter* was installed and staff training conducted. In January 2019 all medical, food shopping and other transportation services were entered into the system. In 2019 this will include implementation of a key tag being issued to center attendees to sign-in for nutrition, exercise, club and other programs. This software has 72 different languages available which will prove a great asset to center attendees and staff.
- With the closing of the Stelton Community Center the Department of Recreation began offering some of their programs at the center including Holiday dances, ping pong, Jujitsu and Tai Chi. In 2019 we will continue to work with Recreation to provide programming as scheduling and space allow.

Municipal Alliance/Youth Services Commission:

BABES:

Beginning Awareness Basic Education Studies (BABES) is a *primary prevention program designed to build assets and teach life skills* to the second grade children of Edison. There are six lessons taught once per week in individual classrooms. The program has also expanded to the both Edison Township libraries during the summer months in an effort to bring the program to students who may be home schooled or enrolled in private school. About 1500 second grade students participated in this program during the 2017-2018 school year and an additional 30 students participated in the Summer BABES program.

Strengthening Families Program:

The Strengthening Families Program (SFP) is a *parenting and family skills training program* that consists of 10 weekly skill-building sessions. There were approximately 20 families that completed in the program in 2018 including 4 families from Kilmer Homes. In September, we also received a merit that allowed us to host a Strengthening Families Training in an effort to train more group facilitators who would able to help conduct the program.

Summer Outreach Program:

In 2018, the Summer Outreach Program consisted of approximately 40 adolescents aged 9-14 that had been *identified as at risk by their respective schools*. These children were invited to participate in a 4 week summer program that included 8 recreational trips, each preceded by prevention/educational programming focusing on topics such as cyberbullying, healthy snacking, gateway drugs, and drug jeopardy.

BRIDGES Program:

Building Relationships In Diversified Groups of Edison Students, is an adolescent health promotion, education, and prevention project. The program has approximately 40-50 adolescents between the ages of 14-18 in grades 9-12 at JP Stevens High School participate. Intervention and prevention strategies focus on behavioral, emotional, and cognitive skills development. For several years, students from the BRIDGES program have been participating in the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission Arts Project for which the EMA has continued to receive grant funding through Middlesex County and the H-Mart Foundation. In 2018, students focused on ways to address key issues such as child trafficking, global warming, child abuse, and bullying.

Edison Family Day 2018:

This year marked the 28th Edison Family Day. About 993 attendees, 85 volunteers, and 18 Health Fair participants attended the event.

Community Outreach:

- In April, the “Hidden in Plain Sight” event was hosted at the Edison YMCA for parents.
- In May, the Edison Municipal Alliance participated in a Mother’s Day event at Ozanam Shelter. About 35 participants were a part of the event.
- In June 2018, the Edison Municipal Alliance invited families who had participated in the Strengthening Families program to attend a “Family Movie Night” at the AMC Loew’s Theater and 50 individuals participated in the event.
- In July 2018, families from Kilmer Homes were also invited to a “Family Movie Night” and 20 individuals attended.
- In August 2018, the Edison Municipal Alliance participated in the “Back to School Fundraiser” held at Minnie B. Veal.
- In December 2018, a Holiday Paw Patrol event was held at the Edison Elks Lodge and about 90 attendees were at the event.

Goals for 2019:

- In 2019, the Edison Municipal Alliance aims to host another Summer BABES program at St. Matthew’s or the Edison YMCA.
- Conduct a Spanish Strengthening Families Program for families at Washington or Lincoln Elementary School.
- Partner with the Board of Education to host another “Hidden in Plain Sight” event at one of the Edison Township Schools.