

Delaware County  
Public Health Services

ANNUAL  
REPORT



2020



Amanda Walsh  
Director of Public Health

**Healthy people living in healthy and thriving communities**



## **OUR VISION:**

HEALTHY PEOPLE LIVING IN HEALTHY  
AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES

## **OUR MISSION:**

PROTECT, PROMOTE AND IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE OF  
ALL GENERATIONS AND CREATE HEALTHY PLACES TO LIVE, LEARN, WORK AND PLAY.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2020**

- Health Services Advisory Board
  - ◇ Heather Warner
  - ◇ Christina Gardner
  - ◇ Jeanette Hinkley
  - ◇ Dr. Rohan Jayasena
  - ◇ Edward Bartos
  - ◇ Dr. Riaz Lone
  - ◇ Wayne Marshfield
  - ◇ Arthur Merrill
  - ◇ R. Eugene Pigford
  - ◇ Amanda Walsh
  - ◇ Betty Scott
  - ◇ Joe Cetta
  - ◇ Terri Whitney
  - ◇ Kyra Shew
- Community Health
  - ◇ Betty Scott
  - ◇ Joe Cetta
  - ◇ R. Eugene Pigford, Chairman
  - ◇ Arthur Merrill
  - ◇ Wayne Marshfield
- Medical Director
  - ◇ Dr. Rohan Jayasena
- Medical Advisor
  - ◇ Dr. Riaz Lone

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1: Our Vision/Our Mission/Committee Members

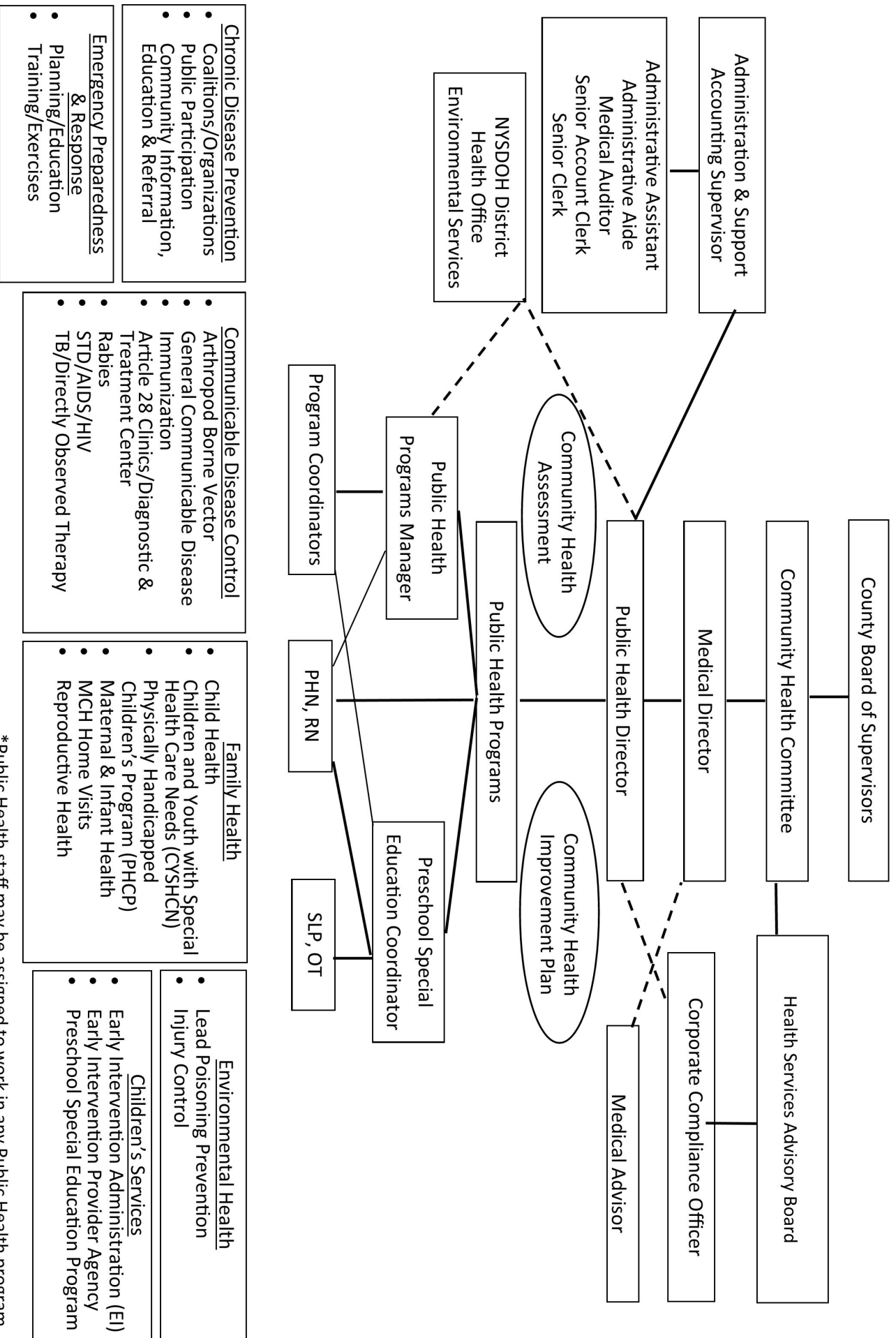
2: Organizational Chart

3-9: Program Highlights

10-11: Financial Report

12: Agency Summary

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART FOR DELAWARE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES



Revised 2/2020

\*\* Public Health Program Manager and Preschool Special Education Coordinator may perform general supervision of PHN/RN related to program activity (does not include supervision of nursing clinical skills ie. giving shots)

\* Public Health staff may be assigned to work in any Public Health program

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Preventing Substance Use

- Meetings and collaboration with other agencies in Delaware County were conducted over Zoom
- Delaware County Public Health collaborated with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council and Delaware Opportunities to host a virtual Fall Event.
  - ◇ The week long event was held in October providing professional development trainings.
  - ◇ Topics included Building Positive Brain Patterns, Moving Forward During Difficult Times, Building Resiliency and more.
  - ◇ Two Hundred Sixty-Six people attended this virtual event and provided positive feedback regarding the topics and support that the trainings provided.

## Promoting Mental Health

- 5 Delaware County Suicide Prevention Coalition meetings were held in 2020.
- School Counselors in Delaware County reported students were struggling academically and mentally due to COVID-19.
- Outreach was conducted to all 13 school districts; A prevention packet including Delaware County Suicide Prevention Mental Health Pocket Resource Guides and an assortment of Lifeline Crisis Affirmation cards was mailed to each school.

## Communicable Disease Control

- **Communicable Disease Report**
  - ◇ A total of 5,381 communicable disease laboratory reports were received and investigated resulting in 1,772 cases being completed and reported in 2020.
  - ◇ A total of 7 STD tests and 2 anonymous HIV tests were conducted.
- **Immunization**
  - ◇ 39 vaccinations were given at Public Health immunization clinics.
- **Rabies Program**
  - ◇ A total of 338 bite reports were received in 2020.
  - ◇ In 2020, a total of 135 dogs, cats, and ferrets received rabies vaccinations at the 4 free public clinics
  - ◇ A total of 31 individuals received rabies post exposure treatment.
  - ◇ A total of 21 animals were sent for rabies testing with Zero animals testing positive for rabies.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Environmental Health & Injury Control

- **Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**

- ◇ Families received case management services and education on how to lower and prevent elevated lead levels over the phone and through the mail.
- ◇ Thirty-six children were considered lead elevated in the 2020.
- ◇ Public Health worked with families and primary care offices to alleviate barriers for families to have their children's lead levels retested .

- **Child Passenger Seat Program**

- ◇ 175 Child Safety seats were distributed through the Education and Seat Distribution Program and the Permanent fitting station. No car seat events were held due to COVID-19 response activities.

- **Mortality & Morbidity Data**

- ◇ Tobacco use listed as a contributing factor to death:
  - ◆ 56 deaths listed tobacco as a probable contributing factor.
  - ◆ 90 deaths listed tobacco as a confirmed contributing factor.
- ◇ 11 deaths were marked as suicides.
- ◇ 3 deaths were marked as homicides.
- ◇ 14 deaths were due to Covid-19.
- ◇ 12 deaths were marked as drug overdoses.

## Family Health

- **Children & Youth With Special Health Care Needs**

- ◇ In 2020 Eight children received active care coordination and two children received orthodontia services
- ◇ Outreach was provided through social media platforms, phone, email and the radio.
- ◇ Outreach was continued with medical providers, school districts and day care providers in addition to resources being provided to families who received current care coordination.

- **Maternal Child Health Program**

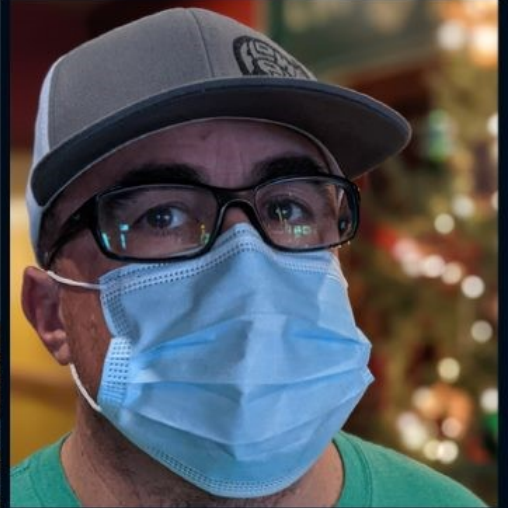
- ◇ 20 Home visits were conducted in 2020 before Covid-19 halted home visits.
- ◇ 351 births were recorded in Delaware County in 2020.
- ◇ 23.4% of mothers self reported smoking during pregnancy in 2020.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Emergency Preparedness & Response

- **January** - Weekly status reports COVID-19 from conducted by NYSDOH and NYC Public Health
- **January** -Surveillance and quarantine of travelers returning from China conducted by Public Health staff
- **January**- County Pandemic plans reviewed and updated
- **March 1** -1st person tests positive for COVID-19 in New York State
- **March 7**- Governor Cuomo declares State of Emergency for New York state.
- **March 12**-Delaware County reports first positive case of COVID-19
- **March 13**- Delaware County declares state of Emergency (schools to close and go and remote by 3/18/2020)
- **Weekly Press Releases**
- **March 16**- Governor Cuomo declares State of Emergency (schools to close and go to remote (3/18/2020)
- **March-June** Periodic school meetings with Superintendents
- **March 22**-Governor Cuomo orders state-wide closer of all non-essential business
- **March 12-June** -Daily Press Releases
- **May 1**- Gov. Andrew Cuomo closes schools for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 15.
- **May 5**-Gov. Andrew Cuomo released “Regional Guidelines for Re-Opening,” which laid out a four-phase plan for reopening the state following the coronavirus pandemic. There is no specific start date. New York is a Democratic trifecta.
- **May 11**-Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that some parts of the state could start to reopen in phases beginning on May 15. Three regions meet the criteria for reopening— Finger Lakes, Southern Tier, and Mohawk Valley. In phase one, construction, manufacturing and wholesale supply chains, agriculture, forestry, and fishing may resume. Retail establishments can open for curbside pickup.
- **May 29**-Gov. Andrew Cuomo extended New York’s stay-at-home order until June 27. It will only apply to regions that have not met the state’s criteria to enter Phase One of reopening. New York City is the only region that has not advanced to the first phase, but Cuomo announced the city was on track to begin reopening starting June 8. The Finger Lakes, Mohawk Valley, Southern Tier, North Country, and Central New York regions were all cleared to enter Phase Two of reopening on May 29.
- **June**- Virtual Call Center(VCC) is launched to assist with disease monitoring.





#MASKUPDELCO

**MASKS  
PROTECT  
YOU**



**MASKS  
PROTECT  
OTHERS**

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Emergency Preparedness & Response Continued

- **June 12**-Five regions—North County, Mohawk Valley, Southern Tier, Finger Lakes, and Central New York—moved into Phase III of the state's reopening plan on June 12. The following businesses and activities are permitted to resume: in-restaurant dining (50% capacity), and personal care services such as tattoo parlors (50% capacity).
- **July**-Periodic Planning meetings with SUNY Delhi
- **July**-Press Releases M-S, no Holidays
- **August**- December 31 -Press Releases M-F, no Holidays
- **August**-December Weekly School Superintendent Calls
- **August 7, 2020** -New York Governor Cuomo announced schools would reopen to in-person instruction at the start of the school year. Students would be required to wear masks. Parents would retain the option to keep their children home
- **November** -Medical Counter Measure Plan Update, COVID VAX Plan
- **October**-December -Southern Tier HUB Vax weekly call

## Covid-19 Social Media Press Releases

- Total COVID-Related Posts 2020: 689
- Shared COVID-Related Posts (via NYS DOH, Delaware County Gov, CDC, etc.): 353
- Dashboards: 258
- Original Posts: 43
- #MaskUpDelCo: 19
- Exposure Notices: 10
- PH Minute/Original Videos: 6
- Social media followers in 2020: started with 1,145 and ended with 5,104

## Administration

- **Corporate Compliance**
  - ◇ A new CPSE Portal software was contracted through McGuiness- The software creates electronic session notes that meet Medicaid requirements.
  - ◇ IPRO review of EI Program for a municipality review completed in October.
  - ◇ A tracking system was created for mandatory Public Health staff trainings.
  - ◇ Agency Annual Training for staff was completed in November.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Early Intervention

- Total number of referrals 98.
- Total number of enrolled children 84.
- 3 Service Coordinators.
- Enrolled children by town: Andes 0, Bovina 0, Colchester 4, Davenport 7, Delhi 11, Deposit 4, Franklin 5, Hamden 0, Hancock 9, Harpersfield 1, Kortright 3, Masonville 2, Meredith 2, Middletown 2, Roxbury 2, Sidney 23, Stamford 3, Tompkins 0, Walton 20
- 3 evaluators provided evaluations.
  - ◊ January 2020-March 2020 evaluations were provided in-person.
  - ◊ Evaluations became virtual in March of 2020.
- In March of 2020 services for Early Intervention switched from in-person to virtual services.
- As a result of virtual services and the Covid-19 emergency 44 children waited for services to begin over 30 days during 2020.
- 16 children did not meet the 45 day timeline for Early Intervention initial evaluations.
- EI Services includes; Speech, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy

## Child Find

- 32 referrals were made in 2020.
- 10 children were enrolled in 2020.

## Speech Language Pathologist

- Public Health employs a full time Speech Pathologist to fill gaps in speech services to children in the Preschool and Early Intervention program.
- Average speech therapy sessions a week: 11

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Preschool Special Education Services

- There were 128 total children enrolled in the preschool program in 2020.
- 79 children received related services. (Ex: speech, occupational, and physical therapy.)
- 49 children attended a 4410 preschool.
  - ◊ Carousel Children's Services- Delhi, NY
  - ◊ Family Enrichment Network-Norwich, NY
  - ◊ Handicapped Children's Association (HCA)- Johnson City, NY
  - ◊ Springbrook (Kids Unlimited)-Oneonta, NY
  - ◊ Whispering Pines Preschool-Cobleskill and Delanson, NY
- 2 Transportation companies were utilized to transport preschool children to the 4410 programs
  - ◊ Birnie Bus Corporation
  - ◊ Rolling V Transport
- Four 4410 programs were available for evaluations for preschool students:
  - ◊ Carousel Children's Services- Delhi, NY
  - ◊ Family Enrichment Network-Norwich, NY
  - ◊ Handicapped Children's Association (HCA)- Johnson City, NY
  - ◊ Whispering Pines Preschool-Cobleskill and Delanson, NY
- March-June: Preschool children switched from in person services to virtual services due to Covid-19 for both related services and 4410 program children.
- July-August: Children who attended 4410 programs utilized parent transportation to summer programs.
- July-August: Children who received related services received their summer services outside only or via virtual services.
- 4410 children continued in their 4410 program in September.
- Related Service children were able to receive in person services in October.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

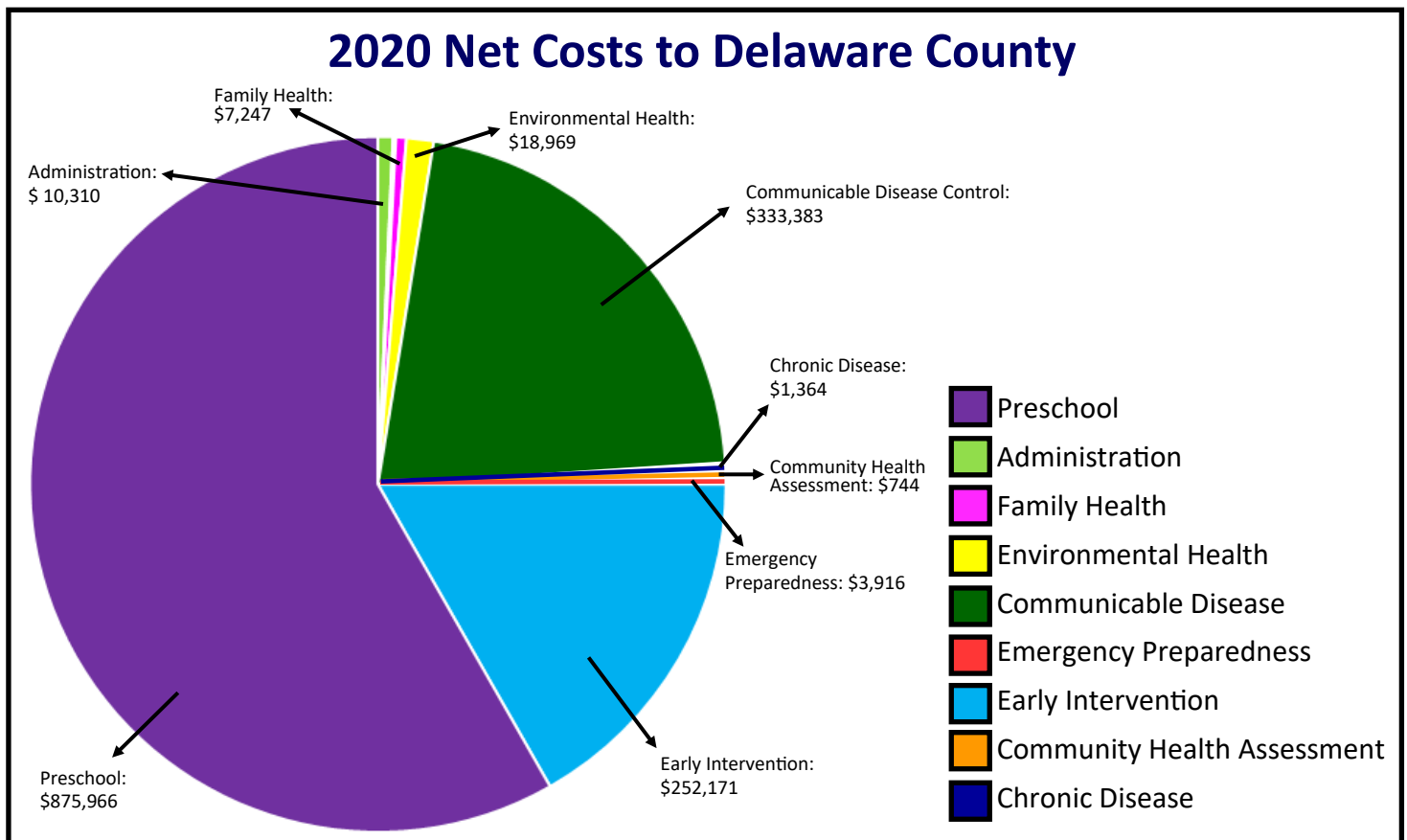
## Delaware County Public Health Services Programs and Funding

- **Chronic Disease Prevention** – Funded through State Aid
- **Communicable Disease Control** – Funded through State Aid and:
  - ◇ Rabies grant to provide human post exposure treatment, specimen testing and vaccination clinics
  - ◇ Immunization Action Plan to increase immunization rates, improve immunization records, and promote immunizations through education and training.
- **Family Health** – Funded through State Aid and:
  - ◇ Children with Special Health Care Needs grant to eliminate gaps and barriers which prevent families of children with special needs from obtaining insurance, health services, and community resources and assist them with navigating the healthcare system.
- **Environmental Health** – Funded through State Aid and:
  - ◇ Lead Poisoning Prevention grant to increase awareness of lead poisoning, identify high-risk populations, increase lead testing/screening and provide follow-up to children with elevated lead levels.
  - ◇ Child Passenger Safety grant to increase the proper use and installation of child safety seats through check events and a low-income distribution program.
  - ◇ Overdose Data to Action grant for enhanced response activities associated with the opioid crisis.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Response** – Funded through State Aid and:
  - ◇ Public Health Preparedness grant which provides for planning, training and exercises in preparation for a public health emergency. Many of our emergency plans were enacted during the COVID19 pandemic of 2020.
- **Community Health Assessment** – Funded through State Aid
- **Early Intervention** – Funded through an administration grant, Private Insurance, Medicaid and New York State Department of Health.
- **Preschool Special Education Program** – Funded through Medicaid and New York State Department of Education.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Delaware County Public Health Services Programs and Funding

- In 2020 Delaware County Public Health Services received additional emergency funding related to the COVID19 Pandemic.
  - ◇ May 2020 - \$95,373 for COVID-19 response activities.
  - ◇ August 2020 - \$253,688 for enhanced COVID-19 detection activities including case and contact investigations.
  - ◇ September 2020 - \$8,570 NYS Health Foundation funds for rural health departments providing COVID-19 emergency response activities.



# AGENCY SUMMARY

2020 was the year the COVID-19 pandemic began. January and February the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and New York State began looking at disease data and were on alert related to illness and information reported in Wuhan, China. New York State held conference calls and Public Health Directors were placed on high alert related to a new contagious disease that was effecting parts of China and international travel. In February, local health departments were required to follow-up with travelers coming from parts of China and institute quarantine protocols as well as track any potential illness. March 12, 2020 marked the beginning of heightened COVID-19 pandemic undertakings for Delaware County when the County's first case of COVID-19 was reported. This marked the beginning of rapid changes for Agency, who began responding to the COVID-19 case reports, as well as changes for Delaware County residents and visitors. Countries began limiting or closing travel. County, State and Nation began shutting down as isolation and quarantine measures were put in place. Public Health began case investigation, contact tracing, coordinating wrap around services, daily reporting to the community as well as providing press releases and social media information and education. The Agency served as a resource to the community, answering COVID related phone calls, emails and requests from municipalities, county partners, private agencies, businesses, schools, SUNY Delhi, an individuals. Most of Public Health's regular day to day programming and activities were put on hold to focus efforts on pandemic requirements. The Agency worked 7 days per week tirelessly for many months and a minimum of 6 days per week for the rest of 2020.

**Staffing changes:** A program coordinator was hired in January, a full time public health nurse hired in February, three per diem nurses were hired in August, September and November, respectively. A full time nurse retired in October, replaced a full time nurse in December.