**Environmental Health Monthly Report**

## April 2013

Accreditation

•Ms. Crossland and Ms. Zmuda participated in the first of three Ohio Accreditation Learning Community events, a grant-funded project co-sponsored by the Ohio Public Health Partnership and Ohio Voluntary Accreditation Team (OVAT). The project was initiated to provide opportunities for peer support and networking for local health departments in accreditation readiness and quality improvement. Roughly a third of Ohio health departments were represented. The next events will take place in June and September.

•Ms. Zmuda will participate in “Ohio Evidence-Based Public Health Course: A Pathway to Accreditation” training in June on behalf of the department. The 3 ½ day, low-cost course will address topics of evidence-based public health, health assessment, improvement planning, and evaluation, and include Ohio-specific data, insight from successful Ohio initiatives and guidance from instructors who practice public health in Ohio.

Communicable Disease

•Ms. Crossland and Ms. Zmuda participated in Gastro Gambit, a statewide exercise sponsored by Ohio Department of Health, for foodborne illness surveillance and outbreak investigation. The team in Crawford County included the Directors of Environmental Health and Nursing from Galion City and Crawford County Health Departments, regional epidemiologist Nikki Brue, and evaluator Trish Factor, emergency preparedness planner with Wood County Health Department. This was Galion’s first opportunity to work with Ms. Brue. The purpose of the exercise was to evaluate our foodborne illness outbreak plans. A written After Action Report is being prepared by the exercise planner.

Food Safety

•Kevin Barlow, Food Safety Specialist with Ohio Department of Agriculture, conducted a retail food program survey May 7-9, 2013. Mr. Barlow offered preliminary comments and recommendations throughout the survey and during an exit interview with Ms. Zmuda on May 9. No major deficiencies were indicated. The final written survey report will be received within 45 days.

Information Technology

•Ohio Department of Health-sponsored Environmental Health Data System Integration (EHDSI) software installation is nearly complete. The department has 2 licensed users of the system (Ms. Roston and Ms. Zmuda). The initial release, which will include the food safety and public swimming pool programs, is expected to take place in May. Ms. Zmuda will attend train-the-trainer instruction May 20-23 in Columbus.

•Epi Info 7, the most current version of CDC’s public domain statistical software for epidemiology, has been installed department-wide. The software is a powerful package that includes a wide variety of capabilities from customized data entry to data analysis to mapping. Efforts will be made, as time allows, to explore the software so it can be used for future outbreak investigation.

Public Health Nuisances

•Fifty public health nuisance complaints were received through April 30, representing a 56% increase in cases year-to-date over 2012. This is due in part to cases being opened without a complaint when egregious violations are discovered. Generally speaking, city-wide compliance with premise sanitation ordinances is poor.

• Ms. Zmuda and Matt Ross, City of Galion Building/Zoning Inspector, were interviewed about nuisances by Matt Echelberry of the Galion Inquirer. The resulting article, which appeared in the May 4 edition of the paper, described the increase in the numbers of violations reported to both Building/Zoning and Health, and the severity of those violations.