

Health Matters



from the Kane County Health Department

— August 16, 2018 —

Trending Matters:



Prepare Now by getting the FEMA app for your phone [HERE](#)

Preparing for disasters

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2018



PREPARE NOW

LEARN HOW



It is that time of year again! **September is National Preparedness Month.** The devastating natural disasters of the past year have reminded us that we must be ready for anything. Many times, the people of a community are the first ones to take action after a disaster. It is more important than ever to be prepared. National Preparedness Month is a time for you and your family to discuss important questions about disasters, make plans, and learn practical safety or life-saving tips.

The theme for this year is: "Disasters Happen: Prepare Now, Learn How"

So, how should you prepare?

1. Make and Practice Your Plan

Learn what types of disasters can affect you. Then, ask how you will receive emergency information and warnings. Discuss your family's shelter and evacuation plans and create a communication plan. Do you know where to go, what to do, and how to reconnect? How will you contact family members when disaster strikes?

2. Learn a Life-Saving Skill

This can be anything from CPR and First Aid classes to knowing how to turn off the utilities in your home.

3. Check Your Insurance Coverage

Does your insurance cover flooding? Even just a few inches of water can cause thousands of dollars in damage. Will you be able to get your home back after a disaster?

4. Save for an Emergency

Do you have copies of your personal, financial, legal, and medical documents stored in a safe place? Do you have cash on hand in case ATMs do not work? Do you have an emergency savings account for crisis situations?

For more information about National Preparedness Month and how you can be ready, visit ready.gov. Being prepared can reduce fear, anxiety, and losses. Minutes can matter during a disaster.

Maria Pergi, MPH

KCHD gets funding to improve children's mental health



The Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation (ILCHF) has awarded the Kane County Health Department an initial \$200,000 planning grant to improve the system of care for children and their families. Once the initial planning year is completed, Kane County will be eligible for an additional \$2.1 million over the following six years for implementation. This project will be a collaboration between the health department and many committed partner organizations and collaboratives working to serve the mental health needs of young people in Kane County.

In May of this year, community stakeholders reviewed health data for Kane County and again selected Behavioral Health as one of the top three health priorities in the new Kane County Community Health Improvement Plan. Community leaders voted mental health and substance abuse to be the most severe health issues facing our residents.



"We are fortunate in Kane County to have so many individuals and organizations doing tremendous work to address the behavioral health needs of our young residents," stated Michael Isaacson, MPH, Assistant Director for Community Health at the Kane County Health Department and Project Director for this initiative. "This funding and technical support from the Foundation will support efforts to coordinate and expand existing efforts to better meet the needs of our families."

The project will utilize a holistic approach and engage multiple, existing collaboratives made up of organizations representing early childhood, education, justice, local government, mental health, primary care, social services and substance abuse providers.

The foundation of this project will be **1) coordinated screenings, 2) a single point of entry and 3) capacity building to increase wraparound services**. These data-driven efforts will emphasize measuring and evaluating quality and family satisfaction. The project seeks to meet the unique needs of all children,

utilizing a “no wrong door” approach that facilitates a family’s access into coordinated care, regardless of how they enter the system.

Regular, coordinated review of the data by the partners and a strong commitment to continuous quality improvement will identify sub-populations whose needs are not being met. The major strength of this project is that multiple sectors are committing resources to seek upstream solutions together in an effort to reduce the burden on families. The intent is that there be ongoing communication and learning shared between this project, the ILCHF and the other ILCHF funded projects to improve how mental health services are provided not just in Kane County, but across the State of Illinois.

Additionally, individual agencies that contributed to the successful funding application and have formally committed to participate on the Community Planning Team for this project include: Association for Individual Development; Family Counseling Services of Aurora; Family Service Association of Greater Elgin; Kane County Regional Office of Education; Renz Addiction Counseling Center; TriCity Family Services and VNA Health Care. Families will also participate on the Planning Team to provide the critical consumer perspective.

Michael Isaacson, MPH

KCHD is one of 29 nationwide to receive NACCHO’s “Model Practice Award” in 2018



Health Communications Coordinator Tom Schlueter and Executive Director Barbara Jeffers with the award.

The Kane County Health Department was honored with the Model Practice Award at the 2018 Annual Conference of the [National Association of County and City Health Officials \(NACCHO\)](#). The award celebrates local health departments for developing programs that demonstrate exemplary and replicable best practices in response to a critical local public health need. “Nontraditional Partnerships Strengthen Community Health” was one of 29 local health department programs to receive NACCHO’s prestigious Model Practice Award.

The award recognizes the communications partnership with the St. Charles School District during the norovirus outbreak at St. Charles East High School in January 2017.

“We are proud to receive NACCHO’s Model Practice Award. The award is evidence of our commitment to developing responsive and innovative public health programs that improve the health of local residents,” said Barbara Jeffers, MPH, Executive Director.

Since 2003, NACCHO’s Model Practice Awards have honored programs, resources, and tools that demonstrate how local health departments and their community partners can

effectively collaborate to address local public health challenges. Each innovative project receiving the Model Practice Award was peer-reviewed and selected from a competitive group of over 100 applicants.

“Nontraditional Partnerships Strengthen Community Health” is now part of an online, searchable database of successful public health practices in areas that range from immunization and maternal and child health, to infectious diseases and emergency preparedness. The NACCHO Model Practice database allows local health departments, public health partners, and other important stakeholders to learn about the good work being done by local health departments across the country. The database also provides users an opportunity to learn from best practices and what resources are needed to implement comparable programs in other jurisdictions that produce results.

Read more about these award-winning programs [HERE](#).



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