FY16 Board of Health Activity Report

The report below details the services the Health Agent provided for 2016 fiscal year running from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016; a line list of communicable diseases reported on MAVEN; and number of permits generating revenue for the Board’s revolving fund in that time period is detailed below.

Communicable Disease

A crucial part of public health is disease surveillance, investigation, and intervention. The Orange Board of Health Agent, Andrea Crete monitors the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Network (MAVEN) for the Town of Orange, completes follow-up investigations on communicable and other reportable diseases. The Board of Health contracts with Athol Hospital to perform TB testing and direct-observation-therapy (DOT) on tuberculosis (TB) patients to ensure compliance. The types and numbers of disease reports in the Town of Orange are listed below.

Total number of MAVEN cases (including confirmed C, contact CT, probable P, revoked R, and suspect S): 70

- Calicivirus/Norovirus: 1 (C)
- Campylobacteriosis: 1 (C)
- Dengue Fever: 1 (R)
- Diphtheria: 1 (R)
- Group A Streptococcus: 1 (R)
- Haemophilus Influenza: 1 (C)
- Hepatitis C: 12 (7C, 3P, 2CT)
- Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis: 2 (C)
- Influenza: 23 (C)
- Legionelllosis: 1 (C)
- Lyme Disease: 15 (1R, 13S, 1C)
- Refugee: 2 (C)
- Refugee Family: 2 (C)
- Rubella: 1 (R)
- Salmonellosis: 2 (C)
- Varicella: 3 (2S, 1C)
- Zika Virus Infection: 1 (R)

Flu Clinics

Every year the Orange Board of Health spends time organizing, getting paperwork in place, and planning for seasonal flu clinics. The Board of Health relies on volunteers from the Wachusett Medical Reserved Corps to help staff these flu clinics.

The State Department of Public Health allocates free flu vaccine to local public health departments every year. However this year restrictions on use of this vaccine were limited to children under the age of 19 years and un-insured individuals. Due to the restrictions on State vaccine usage, the Orange Board of Health partnered with Rite Aid Pharmacy to vaccinate individuals over 19 years.
On October 21, 2015 a flu clinic was held at the Mahar Regional High School where 28 students were vaccinated. The Orange Board of Health held another clinic in partnership with Rite Aid Pharmacy on November 19, 2015 from 12-2PM open to anyone from the general public and from 3-5PM open to all Municipal Town employees. Rite Aid Pharmacy vaccinated 27 individuals over the age of 19 years.

**Sharps Disposal Mandate**

Effective July 1, 2012, sharps, as well as unopened packages of hypodermic needles and lancets, shall not be disposed of in solid municipal waste, including household waste, and shall be collected and disposed of in accordance with 105 CMR 480. The Orange Board of Health Department is a drop off site to dispose of sharps, supplying sharps containers at no cost to residents to bring back when full. The Orange Board of Health took in:

- 162 Gallon size containers of sharps
- 39 Quart sized containers of sharps.

A total of 420lbs of sharps disposed

**Public Health Inspections:**

Local public health authorities are mandated through federal and State law to enforce codes, regulations and by-laws as necessary to ensure the health and welfare of its inhabitants. Various enforcement actions within the Food, Public-Semi Public Pools, Barns, Title 5, Housing and Camp regulations are provided by the Board of Health.

General Inspections (includes re inspections):

- 44 Nuisance Complaint Inspections (trash, odors, etc)
- 55 Housing Complaint Inspections
- 15 Pre Rental Housing Inspections
- 2 Recreational Camp Inspections
- 1 Public Swimming Pool Inspections
- 3 Tanning Facilities Inspections
- 6 Body Art Facilities Inspections
- 11 Motel/Inns
- 2 Mobile Home Park Complaint Inspections

Food Inspections:

- 133 Food Establishment Inspections
- 4 Re Inspections
- 3 Food Establishment Complaint Inspections
- 6 Temporary Food Event Inspections

Title 5:

- 43 Septic System Inspections (New, upgrades, repairs)
- 18 Soil Testing (Percs, deep hole observations)
- 14 Septic System Design Plan Reviews
- 42 Title 5 Inspection Report Reviews
**Animal Inspector:**

Rabies is a viral disease that can affect all mammals, including humans. The virus attacks the central nervous system and can be secreted in saliva. Because rabies affects people as well as animals, control of this disease has become a top priority for the Division of Animal Health. Although bat strain rabies has been known to exist in Massachusetts since the 1960’s, a small bat population in the state and infrequent exposures limited the need for widespread awareness and control. The raccoon rabies epidemic beginning in 1992 posed new problems for public health officials. Massachusetts law requires that owners of cats and dogs vaccinate their pets for rabies.

A municipal Animal Inspector is nominated under M.G.L. c. 129 and approved by the Department of Food and Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Health. Andrea Crete is the Animal Inspector for the Town of Orange. Animal Inspector duties include investigating into and issuing rabies quarantine orders; investigation of animal complaints; and conducting yearly barn inspections.

A Ten Day Rabies Quarantine is the strict confinement of an apparently healthy domestic animal that has bitten or scratched a human or other domestic animal. Quarantine is the confinement of a domestic animal from humans and other animals for the purposes of observing the animal for signs of rabies and minimizing chances of the animal spreading rabies to humans and other animals. This includes isolation and strict confinement. The Animal Inspector, after completing an investigation and determining that a domestic animal has bitten or scratched a human or another domestic animal, issues a written order to the person in custody of the biting animal requiring the animal to be placed under Strict Confinement for a period of ten days. The Ten Day quarantine applies regardless of the vaccination status of the biting animal.

If during this ten-day period the animal in strict confinement displays symptoms compatible with Rabies, the animal shall be euthanized immediately, and the Animal Inspector and Department shall be notified. Samples from any such euthanized animal, or animal which dies from any cause during the quarantine period, shall be submitted for rabies testing as described in 330 CMR 10.09.

A 45 Day Rabies Quarantine is when a domestic animal has a wound of unknown origin or has been exposed to a potential rabid animal and is up to date on rabies vaccination. The Animal Inspector, upon completion of an investigation and upon determination that a domestic animal has been exposed, will issue a written order to the person in custody of the exposed animal.

Where the Exposed domestic animal is Unvaccinated the quarantine period shall be 6 months with vaccination given a month prior to release.

For additional information on rabies quarantines please visit: http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/animal-health/rabies-control-program/

**Rabies Quarantines:**

- 45 Day Quarantines: 11
- 6 Month Quarantines: 5
- 10 Day Quarantines: 13

Additionally the Animal Inspector conducts yearly barn inspections filling out a Barn Book issued by the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of collecting information on where farm animals (chickens, goats, horses, alpacas, pigs, turkeys, donkeys etc) are kept, noting the number and kind of each animal, minimum standards of shelter available, observations of the health status of the animals, and any cases of potential animal abuse or neglect.
Barn Inspections: 56

Community Improvement/Services:

River Rat Race- The Board of Health had a presence in the River Rat Race Parade. The Health Agent Andrea Crete marched in the parade alongside the North Quabbin Substance Abuse Coalition to show support for those recovering from substance abuse and addiction, and for families coping with loved ones.

Family Fun Day – The Board of Health participated in the Family Fun Day event at the Athol – Orange Lodge of Elks on May 14th giving away 60 jump ropes to promote health and well being. Additional information was given out on tips to stay healthy and support for those suffering from substance abuse.

Attorney General’s Abandoned Housing Initiative- The Orange Board of Health is partnering with the Attorney General Office’s Abandoned Housing Initiative to tackle residential abandoned/vacant housing in the Town of Orange. Many of these properties are in conditions of disrepair that make them unsafe, become an attractive nuisance to kids, vandalism, breaking and entering, squatters, and blight to the neighborhood. This initiative helps to bring these properties back into compliance thru enforcement and receivership. The Board of Health has identified and started the enforcement process for 16 properties in the Town. This is an ongoing project to increase property values in the community, prevent vandalism, decrease blight, and increase the overall image of housing in the Town. For more information or to report a property you think is a candidate for this initiative, please contact the Orange Board of Health.

Budget Overview:

The Board of Health operates with a revolving fund with a spending limit of $20,000. Line item expenditures were created to ensure proper allocation of money within the department’s operating budget. The revolving fund is primarily funded by revenue from Board of Health permit fees. Below is a list of permits, licenses, and applications generating revenue to the revolving fund.

- 1 Bathing Beach Permit
- 6 Body Art Permits
- 3 Cabin/Campground Permits
- 16 Disposal Works Construction (Septic) Permits
- 67 Food Establishment Permits
- 2 Frozen Dessert Manufacturer Permits
- 2 Funeral Director Permit
- 3 Mobile Park Permits
- 3 Motel/Inn Permits
- 14 Pre Rental Housing Inspection Permits
- 1 Public/Semi Public Pool Permit
- 2 Recreational Camp Permit
- 10 Refuse Hauler Permits
- 7 Septage Hauler Permits
- 10 Septic Installer Permits
- 4 Septic Component Repair Permits
- 17 Soil Testing Permits
- 1 Tanning Permits
• 53 Temporary Food Establishment Permits
• 40 Title 5 Inspection Reports (File/Review Fee)
• 13 Tobacco Retail Permits
• 7 Well Permits

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Respectfully Submitted – Andrea Crete