

Table of Contents	3 A Word from the Board of Health President	4 Office of the Director
6 Administrative Services	8 Community Health Services	Children with Special Healthcare Needs 10
12 Environmental Health	COVID Year in Review 14	16 County Health Rankings
17 Get Your Shot Together	Organizational Chart 18	19 Leadership

Photo Acknowledgements:

COVER —Cows, windmills and grass—taken by Troy Bishopp in the Town of Madison

PAGES 6/7—Madison Hall Original County Courthouse Morrisville—taken by Stella King in the Town of Eaton

PAGES 12/13—Early Morning Mist over Lake Moraine—taken by Noah Nassimos in the Town of Madison

PAGES 18/19—Winter Wheat—taken by Rhonda Bravick in the Town of Stockbridge

A Word from the Board President

The Board of Health is honored to serve the citizens of Madison County. Our mission is to guide, advocate and collaborate to ensure the essential public health services are provided to the community.

We will continue to strive to improve and protect the health of everyone in our county.

The COVID-19 pandemic certainly had a significant impact on public health in New York and our community. The pandemic caught everyone by surprise. It affected everyone and our way of life. New York, like everywhere else, was not prepared for the magnitude of the disease that was created. This coronavirus was a new virus and most information about it was unknown. The best treatments for the diseases associated with it were also unknown. There were not enough medical supplies, causing shortages of masks, gloves, protective equipment, ventilators, medications, etc. Hospital capacity and primary health care facilities were overwhelmed. This also resulted in the delay in the diagnostics and treatments of many other diseases and conditions. In addition, dental care was shut down. Furthermore, the workload of the pandemic overwhelmed the public health workforce. The demands of COVID forced the primary objectives to be driven towards COVID, such as analyzing data, tracking and tracing, and providing health education and guidance. This caused a reduction of many other public health services.

State mandates and social distancing changed the normal way of interacting and the performing of public health duties. Technology became an important way to communicate, share data and interact. Madison County Public Health's website provided valuable COVID related information to the community. The Board of Health, like government agencies, business, schools, and many others, relied on online platforms to interact in lieu of in-person events. The emergence of telehealth became important to health care delivery. It helped to provide remote consultations, monitoring and treatments. Telemedicine was also a valuable tool with delivering mental health services.

The pandemic highlighted:

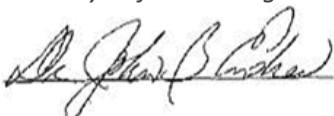
- ☐ *The importance of being prepared for health emergencies.*
- ☐ *The need for providing reliable information, dispelling misinformation, and community engagement.*
- ☐ *Vaccination has once again proven to be a powerful public health tool.*
- ☐ *Wearing a mask and social distancing are successful strategies to prevent the spread of respiratory diseases.*
- ☐ *The awareness and rise of mental health problems; especially anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorders.*
- ☐ *Being part of a community and having human support when you need it are essential. We need each other.*
- ☐ *The people in our community are resilient.*
- ☐ *We should all be proud of the commitment and accomplishments by everyone in our Department of Public Health.*

"The unsung pandemic heroes, extraordinary people going above and beyond to serve their communities." UNICEF

Dealing with an unknown entity is humbling. Admitting what is not known, realizing that knowledge evolves with time, and admitting inevitable mistakes make for an adaptive and more successful process to public health strategies.

The Board of Health will continue to collaborate with the Department of Public Health, community leaders, and residents with the goal of improving health across the county.

Thank you for wanting to be a part of a healthier Madison County.



Dr. John B. Endres

President, Madison County Board

Office of the Director

Office of the Director oversees the administration of the County's Public Health Department and its implementation of NYS Public Health Law and mandated programs. The office coordinates the planning and implementation of the County's health goals and public health preparedness activities by employing the core functions and essential services of public health.

Community Health Assessment & Improvement Plan

The Community Health Assessment (CHA) is a systematic review of our community's health status with the purpose of identifying the health issues most important to our residents. The purpose of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is to strategically leverage and align the efforts and resources of multiple organizations. Community organizations met to review the assessment results, prioritize health issues, and identify ways to address them moving forward.

The Madison County Department of Health partnered with Community Memorial Hospital, Oneida Health, and the Madison County Rural Health Council to complete the 2022-2024 cycle. After a complete review of the CHA, two priority areas were selected:

- ❑ **Prevent Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders**
- ❑ **Prevent Chronic Diseases**

Promote Well-Being & Prevent Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders



OVERVIEW

A person's overall wellbeing is dependent on both mental and physical health. Good mental health allows individuals to be productive, engage in health-seeking behaviors, adapt to life changes, and maintain positive relationships with others.¹

Poor mental health and substance misuse sometimes occur together. Substance misuse is the use of any substance that causes harm to one's self or others. Substance use disorders (SUDs) may develop when prolonged use leads to physical dependence.¹

Prevent Chronic Diseases



OVERVIEW

Chronic diseases typically develop in middle age after prolonged exposure to unhealthy lifestyle factors including tobacco use, physical inactivity, excessive alcohol use, and poor nutrition. Health behaviors, regular health visits and screenings are key to preventing chronic diseases.¹

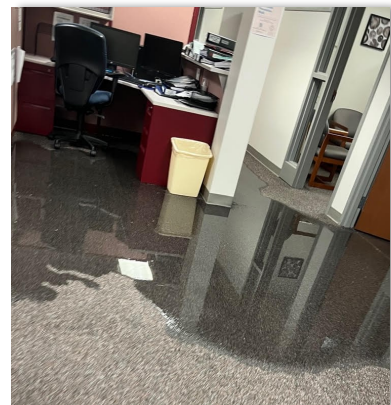
In Madison County, chronic diseases (cancer, heart disease, chronic lower respiratory disease, stroke) account for four of the five leading causes of premature death (under 75 years). Lung cancer causes the majority of all cancer deaths.^{2,3}

2022 Highlights

- ❑ *The Madison County Public Health partnered with Community Memorial Hospital, Oneida Health, and the Madison County Rural Health Council to complete the 2022-2024 Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan cycle. The process identified **Chronic Disease** along with **Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders** as priority areas for our community.*
 - ❑ *Madison County Public Health and BRiDGES launched a new program to increase community access to naloxone (Narcan®) by making wall-mounted emergency boxes available to community agencies and local businesses.*
 - ❑ *The Get Your Shot Together Health Festival was held in September at Good Nature Farm Brewery (Hamilton) with the goal of increasing COVID-19 vaccinations. Over 600 community members attended the event along with 20 vendors, and 13 staff. There were 70 COVID-19, 57 influenza, and 8 Tdap vaccinations administered to attendees.*
 - ❑ *With the completion of the Community Health Assessment cycle in 2022, the Department began work on the Strategic Plan, and will begin updating the corresponding program plans and programs.*
-

Public Health Building Flooding

On the morning of August 5, 2022 the Public Health building in Wampsville saw a main water line break causing significant flooding in a small room designated for document storage. A national document recovery agency was able to remediate the moisture from the documents and mitigate the growth and subsequent regrowth of mold. Administrative support staff in the department were able to retrieve information from the damaged documents, triggering a quality improvement project to update the departments record retention systems. With these updates to in-house systems, staff can now provide better service to the public with easier access to documentation through improved software and storage systems.



Administrative Services

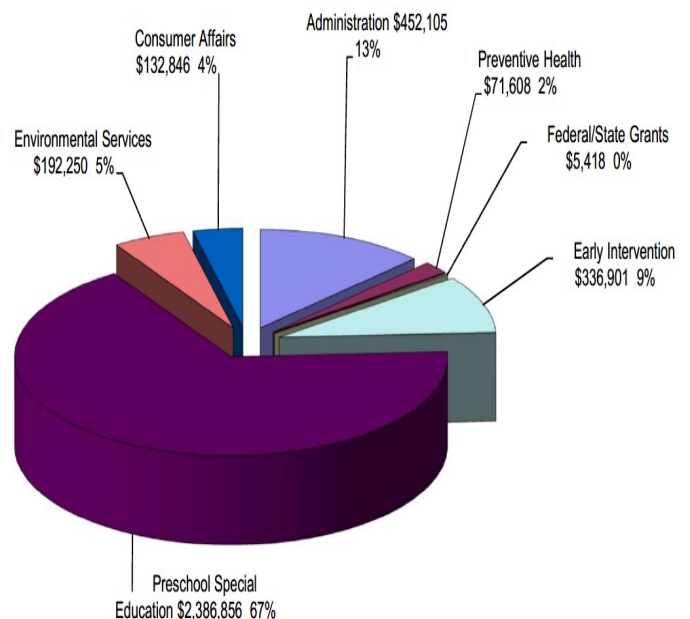
The Administrative Services Division provides critical operational support to the three service-based divisions of the Health Department: Environmental Health, Community Health, and Children With Special Health Care Needs.



The Administrative Services Division saw a few new faces in 2022, as well as long-time staff retirements. Despite the changes, the team maintained the high standard of services and care for our Department.

Admin services the entire department by maintaining centralized cost accounting functions, oversight and direct support of departmental personnel and payroll activities, budget development, financial management, office management, communications, information security, emergency preparedness, HIPAA and Corporate Compliance, mandated reporting, and strategic planning.

Department Financial Report Statement of Revenue and Expenses For the financial year ending 12/31/22



2022 Highlights

- ❑ Overall, the department finished up \$590,630 under budget thanks to efforts of capitalizing on every opportunity to maximize revenues through billing and claiming as well as surveilling our expenses with a microscope.
- ❑ The division is currently fiscally responsible for 15 grants with award amounts totaling over \$1.4 Million. 2022 saw the addition of 3 new grants: Radon, Cars Seat and Healthy Neighborhoods Program.
- ❑ In addition, NYS increased Article 6 state aid funding beginning April 1, 2022 to provide an additional \$100,000 to base grant funding as well as to allow 36% reimbursement on fringe benefit costs, previously an ineligible reimbursable expense.
- ❑ The division executed 65 contracts in 2022.

	Modified Budget	1/1/2022-12/31/22	Under (Over) Budget
Revenues			
Public Health Administration	413,141	442,174	(29,033)
Preventive Health	554,405	767,312	(212,907)
Federal/State Grants	352,779	94,310	258,469
Early Intervention	257,106	261,033	(3,927)
Preschool Special Education	1,954,797	1,680,621	274,176
Environmental Services	552,784	584,190	(31,406)
Consumer Affairs	(3,942)	(8,142)	4,200
Total Revenues	4,081,070	3,821,497	259,573

Expenses			
Public Health Administration	948,943	894,278	54,665
Preventive Health	986,511	838,920	147,591
Federal/State Grants	348,232	99,728	248,504
Early Intervention	729,316	597,933	131,383
Preschool Special Education	4,262,151	4,067,477	194,674
Environmental Services	824,094	776,440	47,654
Consumer Affairs	150,436	124,704	25,732
Total Expenses	8,249,683	7,399,481	850,202

	County Share Budget	Actual County Cost		Actual/Budget Comparison
County Share	\$4,168,613	\$3,577,983	+	\$590,630
			+	Better than Expected compared to Budget
			-	Worse than Expected compared to Budget

Community Health Services

The Community Health Division mission is to empower individuals, families and communities to positively impact healthful lifestyle behaviors

A Note from the Director of Community Health Services

2022 was an exciting year for the Community Health Division as they were able to focus less on COVID-19 and more on traditional programs that were stopped or scaled back in 2020. During the height of the Pandemic, while the Division had to focus on COVID-19 positive case investigation, contact tracing, and providing education and guidance, staff experienced the complete shift in role and responsibility. Thousands of phone calls made, hundreds of isolation/quarantine letters sent, and staff connected people who were out of work with resources. Then in 2021, the division shifted focus to COVID-19 vaccination, with 19,000 doses administered, all while continuing their role in case investigation and contact tracing, along with vast testing efforts throughout the county. The Community Health Division staff were incredible; they worked after hours, on weekends, and made sure to look out for each other. Staff are so grateful to the many volunteers, temporary staff, staff from other divisions, and staff from other departments who helped work through such a busy and stressful time in the Community Health Division.

Disease Investigations

1,178

Lab Reports Addressed

529 Individuals Immunized

Child Safety Seats Distributed 53

327 Maternal & Child Health Home Visits

Lead Poisoning Prevention

12 Home Visits



Staff and Volunteers at the August 2022 celebration of World Breastfeeding Week

2022 Highlights

- ❑ *Bivalent COVID-19 vaccines became available, and the Department stopped creating custom isolation and quarantine orders and began using self-attestation forms as significant changes were made to isolation and quarantine recommendations. In January 2022, Community Health Workers were answering an average of 50 calls daily. That dropped to only a few calls daily by the end of 2022*
- ❑ *Lead program resumed home visits to children with elevated blood levels and following up with providers to improve lead testing rates*
- ❑ *The Communicable Disease Program updated and restarted school, summer camp, and health care surveillance activities*
- ❑ *Published several informational Facebook posts on immunizations topics such as National Influenza Immunization Week, the Hepatitis B Vaccine Birth Dose, and information on vaccines before the start of the 2022 school year.*
- ❑ *The Madison County World Breastfeeding Week Celebration in August 2022 was a huge success, there were 101 attendees; the biggest turn out ever for this event*
- ❑ *The immunization program resumed giving shots at the Madison County Public Health Building while also continuing to have vaccination events within the community*

Children with Special Healthcare Needs

The Children with Special Healthcare Needs Division mission is to provide services to overcome barriers and foster the health development of children and families within the community.



Children with
Special Health
Care Needs Staff

Preschool Program

Provides services to disabled and developmentally delayed children, ages 3-5 years. Services include evaluation, special education teacher services, occupational, physical, and speech therapies. Services are provided at home or in integrated preschool settings comprised of children with and without disabilities.

282
**Children
Served
in 2022**

Early Intervention Program

A family-centered program for disabled or developmentally delayed children, birth to three years of age, and their families. Services include evaluation, screening, special education teacher services, occupational, physical, and speech therapies.

512
**Home
Visits**
181
**Children
Served
in 2022**

Information & Referral Program

Provides assistance to families of children, birth to age 21 years, who have or are suspected of having a serious or chronic physical, developmental, or emotional condition that requires health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.

13
**Families
Served
in 2022**

2022 Highlights

- ❑ Throughout the year the Children with Special Health Care Needs division continued co-mingling of Preschool Transportation services with bordering counties resulted in cost savings of \$76,114.
- ❑ The Early Intervention Program compares child progress from when the child enters Early Intervention to when they leave the program, in 2022:

91% of children who entered the program below age expectations increased their rate of growth in positive social-emotional skills by the time they exited the program.

88% of children who entered the program below age expectations increased their rate of growth in acquisition and use of knowledge and skills by the time they exited the program.

79% of children who entered the program below age expectations increased their rate of growth in adaptive skills by the time they exited the program.

Total Served	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Early Intervention	193	203	211	205	181
Preschool	244	243	323	272	282
Information & Referral	27	17	17	13	13

Customer Satisfaction

98% of families rated very satisfied-satisfied with services received. Comments on parent satisfaction surveys included:

“This program is wonderful. A great experience so far, quick response to referral. Coordinator was friendly, helpful, and knowledgeable.”

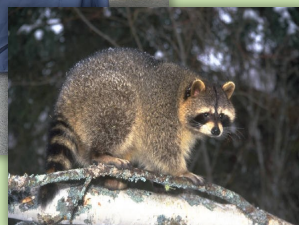
“Absolutely wonderful experience. Thank you so much for all the direction and guidance through a very confusing time for our family.”

“Everyone has been great and very helpful.”

“Thank you again for everything you have done and continue to do.”

Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Division applies the principles of engineering, biological and social sciences for the detection, evaluation, control and management of those factors in the environments which influence public health.



Tobacco-Free
Inside & Out



Thank you for
not using tobacco
on campus



The Environmental Health Division maintains 6 main program areas:

Health Inspections & Permitting

Staff ensures compliance of New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) and Public Health Law through facility inspections and permitting activities. Such facilities include restaurants, swimming pools, beaches, campgrounds, and public water systems.

Health Investigations & Assessments

Staff conduct health investigations in response to outbreaks and/or community concerns to identify the source, to establish control, and to institute measures that will prevent future episodes of disease.

Services

Animal Tested for Rabies	38
Animals Vaccinated for Rabies	950
Compliance Checks-Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention	132
Food Service Inspections	515
Public Water Systems Inspections/Sanitary Surveys	113
Weights and Measures Devices Tested	1,430
Healthy Homes: Initial Assessments	77
Follow-Up Visits	3
Other Inspections (camps, housings, beaches, pools, tanning)	78

Healthy Homes Program

The Healthy Homes of Madison County is a free health and safety checkup and education program for Madison County residents. The program addresses six main concerns:

- ❑ fire prevention and safety
- ❑ managing asthma attacks and pest control
- ❑ preventing lead poisoning
- ❑ cigarette smoking education and cessation
- ❑ indoor air quality
- ❑ injury prevention.

Rabies Clinics and Vector Control

The Vector Control Program protects public health through surveillance, education, and by controlling mosquitos and other vectors (e.g., Ticks) that spread disease. The rabies program prevents the spread of rabies from animal to humans.

Weights & Measures

Weights & Measures inspects, tests, and certifies the accuracy of all commercial weighing and measuring devices, including gasoline and other fuel pumps to meters.

Radon Program

The Radon Program protects public health through testing, education, consumer action and policy changes that reduces indoor radon exposure.

2022 Highlights

- ❑ In 2022, food service staff completed quarterly trainings for standardization in the food protection program on hot topics such as **Time/Temperature Control for Safety (TCS)** foods, cooling of TCS foods, TCS foods without temperature control and cooking and heating foods.
- ❑ This past year Madison County Public Health (MCPH) was awarded two grants.
 - ❑ The Department was awarded the Healthy Neighborhoods Program grant by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) in January 2022. The program provides residents (homeowners and tenants) with education and free low-cost supplies to improve home health and safety during home visits.
 - ❑ In July 2022, the Department was awarded the five-year NYSDOH indoor **Radon Grants Program** - County Governments in High Risk Radon Counties Grant.
- ❑ Weights and Measures resumed testing and certifying weight scales in Oneida and Canastota school districts. This is a non-mandated service provided by the department.
- ❑ During the summer 20,960 mosquitoes were trapped, and 144 mosquito pools were submitted for testing as part of our mosquito surveillance program. One pool tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).
- ❑ Staff continued to work with local municipalities and Engineers with water distribution extension projects. Proposed extensions in the City of Oneida and the Onondaga County Water Authority brought municipal water to areas with problematic onsite water systems.

COVID Year in Review

Year Three of COVID-19 Pandemic Response Operations

Testing & Vaccinations

Kicking the year off, the Department continued weekly drive-thru rapid COVID-19 antigen-testing in Morrisville. By the end of January, 300 individuals had received testing at this site. A sharp decrease in demand however, led to the final closure of this testing site at the end of the month. COVID-19 testing was now widely available across the county at state and other testing sites. The federal, and other available mail order programs, made it easier than ever for the community to access testing supplies and kits. From February to March 2023, the Department helped to augment and provide temporary relief to one of its local hospitals. During this time, the Department provided EMT staff to assist at Oneida Health Hospitals' COVID-19 testing site two days a week.

During January and February, the department offered COVID-19 vaccines at clinics nearly every day. However, demand for vaccinations steadily declined in March and fewer clinics were scheduled. By April COVID-19 staff began transitioning back to normal clinic operations, therefore vaccination offerings transitioned into regular immunization clinics; however, targeted clinics continued to help boost vaccination rates among vulnerable populations, young adults,

and children. By the beginning of August, Madison County clinics administered more than 20,500 monovalent vaccine doses across 19 different locations since December 2020.

The Department held two clinics at Green Empire Farms, increasing booster access to 104 migrant farm workers. To boost vaccinations rates among young adults, the Department also held private clinics at Cazenovia College and Morrisville State College and boosted 178 students to help meet ongoing vaccination requirements.



MCDPH Staff and
Volunteers gear up for
one of the 2022 COVID-
19 testing events

To further improve vaccine access and rates among infants and children, the Department partnered with pediatricians at the Hamilton Family Health Center in the fall to hold a private clinic for their patients, administering 30 doses of vaccine. A brief increase in demand for the COVID-19 vaccine occurred with the approval of second booster doses, followed by approval of bivalent boosters in the fall. From September-December 2022, 427 residents received bivalent vaccines at department clinics. During all of 2022, the Department administered 1,899 COVID-19 vaccine doses.

Closing a Pandemic

Providing the community and partners with the latest guidance and recommendations continued to be an important function the department provided, especially in the first few months of the year as healthcare facilities, colleges and universities scrambled to meet state booster vaccine mandates, along with trying to understand and adapt to changing guidance. Fortunately, the state began joining counties in implementing plans to exit the COVID-19 pandemic. In February, the New York State Department of Health dropped the healthcare booster mandate due to concerns of additional staffing shortages. In March, the state requirements for universal masking in Primary-12th grade school setting ended.

By the middle of the year the COVID-19 pandemic was winding down and almost all staff were back to normal duties while a few

continued contact tracing, case investigations, vaccination clinics, and communicating guidance changes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated isolation and quarantine requirements, no longer recommending quarantine and ending isolation after 5 days if improving.

Nearing the end of 2022, in recognition of the need for more ongoing emergency preparedness and planning efforts, a new position was approved in the department for a full time Public Health Emergency Coordinator.

Ending out the year, the COVID-19 case management and tracking system, (CommCare) was retired by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and staff concluded contact tracing and non-outbreak case investigations. Laboratory case reporting transitioned back to pre-COVID systems and processes.

300
Total rapid
COVID-19
antigens tests
performed

1,889
COVID-19
Bivalent
Doses
Administered

427
Total
COVID-19
doses
administered

County Health Rankings 2022

Health Outcomes			
	Madison County	New York	United States
Length of Life			
Premature Death	5,300	6,000	7,300
Quality of Life			
Poor or Fair Health	16%	16%	17%
Poor Physical Health Days	3.9	3.6	3.9
Poor Mental Health Days	4.8	3.9	4.5
Low Birthweight	7%	8%	8%
Health Factors			
Health Behaviors			
Adult Smoking	19%	13%	16%
Adult Obesity	34%	27%	32%
Food Environment Index	8.4	9.0	7.8
Physical Inactivity	26%	27%	26%
Access to Exercise Opportunities	60%	88%	80%
Excessive Drinking	23%	19%	20%
Alcohol-Impaired Driving Deaths	14%	20%	27%
Sexually Transmitted Infections	305.9	640.6	551.0
Teen Births	9	13	19
Clinical Care			
Uninsured	4%	6%	11%
Primary Care Physicians	1,480:1	1,180:1	1,310:1
Dentists	2,710:1	1,190:1	1,400:1
Mental Health Providers	470:1	310:1	350:1
Preventable Hospital Stays	3,861	3,717	3,767
Mammography Screening	50%	43%	43%
Flu Vaccinations	45%	49%	48%
Social & Economic Factors			
High School Completion	93%	87%	89%
Some College	61%	70%	67%
Unemployment	7.8%	10.0%	8.1%
Children in Poverty	14%	17%	16%
Income Inequality	4.4	5.7	4.9
Children in Single-Parent Households	17%	26%	25%
Social Associations	8.9	8.1	9.2
Injury Deaths	57	53	76
Physical Environment			
Air Pollution - Particulate Matter	6.1	6.9	7.5
Drinking Water Violations	No		
Severe Housing Problems	12%	23%	17%
Driving Alone to Work	80%	52%	75%
Long Commute - Driving Alone	39%	39%	37%

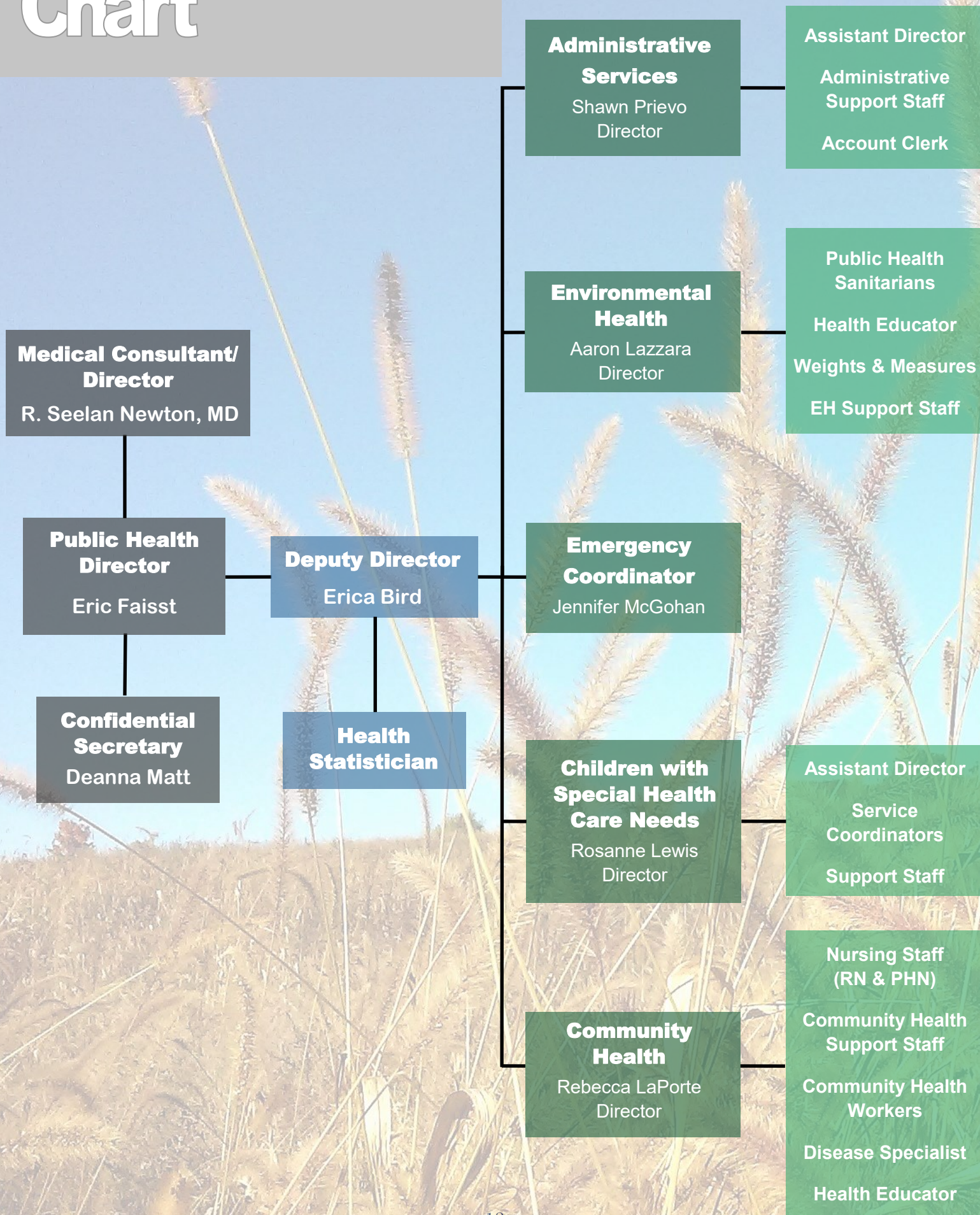


Get Your Shot Together

Madison County's first annual **"Get Your Shot Together"** Health Festival took place on Sunday, September 18, 2022 at the Good Nature Farm Brewery in Hamilton, and had unprecedented success. Our Prevent staff administered 135 immunizations at the event, 70 of which were for COVID-19, 57 for flu, and 8 for Tdap. The Festival had an impressive attendance of roughly 600 people, and boasted 3 great bands, awesome food and drinks, and over 20 healthcare vendors from across the region.

Some special attendance was noted as shown in the above photo of Public Health Director Eric Faisst with Executive Director of the New York State Association of County Health Organizations (NYSACHO), Sarah Ravenhall. Sarah stopped in on her way to a NYSACHO Conference in Buffalo where she spoke of the event during her presentation, reaching representatives from all counties in the state. Since then, the news of our success has spread, leading to some great opportunities to keep an eye out for in the future!

Organizational Chart



Leadership

Madison County

Board of Supervisors, Chairman

John Becker

County Administrator

Mark Scimone

Health & Human Services Committee

Chairman

Alex Stepanski
Town of Stockbridge

Vice—Chairwoman

Brandee DuBois
City of Oneida

Committee Members

Mary Cavanagh
City of Oneida

John Pinard
Town of Lenox

Melissa During
Town of Lincoln

Board of Health

President

John Endres, DVM

Vice President

Wendy Cary

Board Members

Samuel Barr, DMD

Rachel Elder, MD

Gerry Edwards, MD

Jennifer Meyers, MD

Marla Velkey-Reger, LCSW-R

Board of Supervisors Representative

Alex Stepanski, Town of Stockbridge

Medical Director

R. Seelan Newton, MD



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