



# Lewis County Public Health & Social Services (LCPHSS)

## 2014 Annual Report

### Introduction

#### 2014 Lewis County Board of Health

Commissioner Edna J. Fund  
Commissioner Bill Schulte  
Commissioner F. Lee Grose

#### Board of Health Advisory Committee

Ron Pollock  
Cherie Rusk  
Mary DeMun, RN  
Don Haviland, Sr.  
Matt Patten  
Julie Schaffley  
Neal Kirby  
Dr. Richard Price  
Danette York  
Dr. Rachel Wood

#### Lewis County Public Health & Social Services

360 NW North Street  
Chehalis, WA 98532

360-740-1223 Phone  
360-740-1472 Fax

[www.lewiscountywa.gov](http://www.lewiscountywa.gov)

Lewis County Public Health & Social Services (LCPHSS) is located in Southwest Washington in the County seat of Chehalis and serves a population of 75,901 citizens. The county was founded on December 19, 1845 and is named after Meriwether Lewis. The total area of Lewis County is 2,436 square miles. The Department is comprised of the following five divisions:

**Administrative Services:** Board of Health, Customer Service, Department Contracts, Notary Public, Personnel, Vital Records, Veterans Relief Fund

**Animal Shelter:** Animal Intake, Animal Adoptions, Reuniting Lost Animals with Owners

**Community Services:** Chronic Disease Prevention, Communicable Disease Response, Immunizations, Maternal and Child Health, Emergency Preparedness, Assessment, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC),

**Environmental Services:** Food Safety, Code Compliance, Water Lab, Water Quality, On-Site Sewage, Solid Waste,

**Social Services:** Housing, Substance Abuse Prevention, Community Mobilization, Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, DUI Traffic Safety, Senior Services.

### Table of Contents

Community Services	2
Administrative Services	3
Veterans Relief Fund	4
Social Services	4
Animal Shelter	6
Environmental Services	7
WIC	8
Financial Report	9
Message from the County Department Director & Health Officer	10



*Riffe Lake at  
Taidnapam Park*

## Community Services

### Immunizations

Immunizations have saved many lives and prevented millions of cases of disease. Current measles outbreaks in the US are a clear reminder that deadly diseases may be just one unvaccinated traveler away. The benefits of vaccination vastly outweigh the risks and continuing to vaccinate our children is the best way to increase community immunity and help protect the children who cannot be vaccinated. In addition to giving both adult and children's vaccinations, we work with 21 medical clinics to assure that children's vaccines are available and effective.



LCPHSS Clinic Statistics	2011	2012	2013	2014
Vaccine doses given to children 0-18 years	835	976	846	1131
Vaccine doses given to adults	706	1148	1220	1265

Lewis County Vaccination Rates	2011	2012	2013	2014
Two-year old children who are fully immunized	62.0%	71.0%	70%	68.0%
Kindergarten children who are fully immunized	92.3%	87.2%	90.1%	85.0%
Children in 6th Grade who are fully immunized	75.6%	72.7%	86.6%	83.5%



To volunteer to be a member of the Lewis County Medical Reserve Corps, contact Ed Mund, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for LCPHSS at (360) 740-1227.

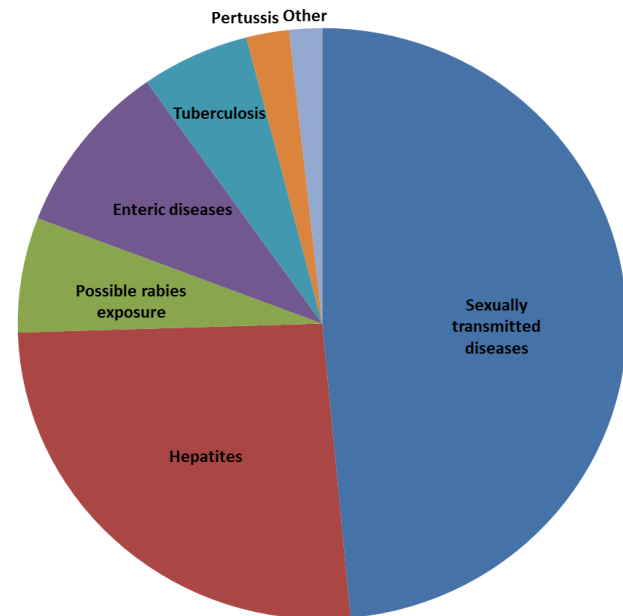
### Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness works in four areas so that we are ready to help preserve and restore health in the county. Preparation is developing plans, training staff, acquiring equipment and supplies, teaching preparedness in the community, and offering vaccinations. Mitigation means this planning and training lessens an emergency's impact. Response will be well supplied and well-coordinated due to planning and training. Recovery will be swift and certain.

The Lewis County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) are volunteers who help with public outreach, work vaccination clinics, augment staff during emergencies, and help with community events. During the 2014 Seattle-to-Portland Bicycle Classic (STP), in partnership with Providence Centralia Hospital, Providence staff and MRC volunteers assisted more than 300 riders in a single day at the Centralia College aid station.

## **Communicable Disease Control**

Public health investigates reported cases of communicable disease in order to prevent spread of disease. LCPHSS investigated 573 cases of communicable disease in 2014. More than half were cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Hepatitis cases made more than one quarter of the caseload. Enteric diseases (spread through contaminated food or water) accounted for almost 10% of investigations. While there were no active cases of tuberculosis during 2014, we investigated 33 suspected cases to ensure that this disease is not active or being spread in our County. Finally, LCPHSS monitored three individuals who arrived from countries involved in the Ebola outbreak.



## **Maternal and Child Health**



LCPHSS provides an array of services to promote and protect the health of women and children. Case management services are available for pregnant women and infants who have a high risk of poor health outcomes. We also work to ensure that all medically fragile children are connected to the resources that they need to maintain health. Together these programs ensure that infants get the healthiest start possible. By providing extra help to families with health or social risks, LCPHSS helps children develop to their full potential and prevents them from developing long-term health issues, disabilities, and social problems.

## **Administrative Services**

Administrative Services provides a variety of programs for our community in addition to supporting the department staff. Customer Service staff is available to help determine necessary immunizations and billings for vaccines. The public may order Washington birth or death certificates through our office in person, on-line, or through the mail. More than one staff member maintains their Notary Public certification so as to provide that service. An interpreter is available to help our Spanish-speaking population. Other services include staff recruitment/new hire documentation, management of personnel records and training, providing water sample bottles and assistance with food permits, purchasing, budget tracking, coordinating Public Disclosure Requests (PDRs), processing contracts & resolutions, serving as Clerk to the Board of Health, and the department leadership.



## **Vital Records**

Births during 2013 (2014 not yet available)	877
Deaths during 2014	717
Birth Certificates Issued in 2014	2,074
Death Certificates Issued in 2014	3,242



## **Resolutions/Agreements**

	Resolution	Agreement	Proclamation	Ordinance
Processed by Board of County Commissioners	16	37	1	1
Processed by Board of Health	4	5	1	0
Processed by LCPHSS Director	N/A	35	N/A	N/A
Total processed	20	77	2	1



## **Veterans Relief Fund**

Veterans Receiving Funds for Living Expenses	268
Veterans Receiving Funds for Funeral Benefits	15

Total expenditures in each category:

Fuel	\$ 18,642.51
Rent	\$ 12,486.00
Food	\$ 40,827.96
Utilities	\$ 33,740.47
Miscellaneous (mini grant, other)	\$ 35,230.00
Funeral	\$ 6,825.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$147,751.94</b>

## **Social Services**

The Social Services division includes multiple programs targeting low-income and underserved populations in Lewis County. The division coordinates services to promote, enhance and protect the well-being of the community through prevention and targeted education. Current programs include Chemical Dependency Treatment and Prevention contract coordination, Developmental Disabilities, Homeless and Housing Assistance, DUI/Traffic Safety, Mental Health Service Coordination, and Senior Services.



## **Prevention:**

Thirty one youth and 10 adults from 7 Lewis County school districts attended the Washington State Prevention Summit where they had an opportunity to learn from peers and professionals who focus on preventing youth substance abuse, violence and other destructive behaviors. Students from Morton, Mossyrock, and Toledo formed prevention teams to inform and motivate youth in their communities to make healthy choices. These students are increasing positive social norms and making a daily difference within their local communities.

## **Developmental Disabilities:**

- # of individuals served by three vendors in employment services: **102**

*Employment services are community-based supports intended to assist individuals with developmental disabilities to obtain and maintain work in the community. These services include Community Access, Group Supported Employment, & individual supported employment.*

- # of children served through child development services: **35**

*Child Development services focus on helping eligible children to learn basic and brand-new skills that typically develop during the first three years of life.*

- # of representatives attending the WA Community Summit: **16**

*The focus of the Community Summit 2014 was to learn from each other on how to build and participate in inclusive communities that enrich everyone's lives.*

## **Mental Health:**

Mental Health First Aid: Trained two classes made up of developmental disabilities service providers, one class for attendees at the annual Autism Conference and four classes for Providence Centralia Hospital staff. We also provided introduction to Mental Health First Aid at the Substance Abuse Conference.

The Mental Health Coalition partnered with Chemical Dependency providers to sponsor the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Recovery Month event at Riverside Park in September with 75 attendees. The Coalition has public monthly meetings with guest presenters.

Technical assistance is given to several community service providers. The Mental Health Liaison supported the development of the Youth Advocacy Center (YAC) and helped with hiring its first executive director. Training was received to provide clinical supervision hours for Master's in Social Work graduates seeking Department of Health licensure.

County staff from five counties (Lewis, Pacific, Grays Harbor, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum) began discussions on integrating Chemical Dependency and Mental Health work as mandated by the state legislature. The integration must take place by having a Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) developed by April, 2016.

## **Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Traffic Safety:**

The Lewis County DUI Task Force was formed in 1975 and placed under direction of LCPHSS. In addition to planning DUI, speed, seat belt and distracted driving emphasis patrols with six law enforcement agencies throughout Lewis County, the Task Force is also involved with outreach programs throughout the county.

High School Prevention Teams are composed of students who are positive role models in their communities. While juggling school, sports, and social lives, the students take their personal time to inform and empower younger students about the harms of underage drug and alcohol use.



## **Housing:**

On the one-night “Point in Time Homeless Count”, which is held every January, 174 individuals were counted as homeless. More than 200 people attended the Project Homeless Connect event to access various services, including receiving clothing, vaccinations, a haircut, and a hot meal. They were also provided an opportunity to receive a hot shower. The second Summer Project Homeless Connect was also held last year with service providers and homeless individuals and families getting together for a fun day at a local park.

Six Hundred sixty-eight students were registered as homeless in our county school districts. These students were offered transportation, supplies, tutoring, after-school programs, and extra snacks for weekends. Our department sends a representative from the largest school district to the National Homeless Children’s conference to gather information and share with all school district liaisons.

In 2014, 12,056 shelter bed-nights were used to shelter people in Lewis County and 494 households were served with homeless and housing funds. Two staff members attended the Poverty Institute in Portland and have started educating people in Lewis County about generational poverty. LCPHSS Housing programs also co-hosted several trainings and informational workshops to educate and raise awareness of the issues.



## **Animal Shelter**

The Lewis County Animal Shelter receives some fees for services but is mainly sustained by County general funds and donations.

Donations may be sent directly to the Animal Shelter at:

**Lewis County Animal Shelter  
P. O. Box 367 Chehalis WA 98532**

You can visit the shelter and find your perfect family pet at:

**560 Centralia Alpha Road, Centralia**

The shelter is always looking for individuals who would like to volunteer. If you or a family member is interested in volunteering, contact the shelter at **(360) 740-1290**. (Volunteers must be 12 years old and all volunteers must complete a one-hour training class.)



### **2014 Statistics**

Animals Received (dogs and cats)	1,289
Animals Adopted	846
Animals Returned	188
Animals Destroyed	246
Percent Destroyed	19%

## Environmental Services

### Code Enforcement:

Hulk Vehicle Inspections	223
Tons of Illegal Tires Disposed	303.16
County Abatements (nuisance)	0
County Abatements (other-illegal dumping)	3

### Complaints by type:

Hulk Vehicles	36
On-Site Sewage	61
Solid Waste	118
Building	217
Clean Indoor Act	3
Planning	20
Public Works	2
Water Quality	8
Dangerous Animal	8
Potentially Dangerous Animal	14
Animal Neglect	12

**Total Complaints Received 499**  
**On 368 properties**

### Civil Infractions:

Issued	19
--------	----

### Infractions issued for multiple individual violations:

Solid Waste	8
Hulk Vehicle	1
Littering	3
Building	8
On-Site Sewage	5
Public Works	0
Land Use	3

### Solid Waste:

Facilities Designated as Exempt Sites	11
Facilities with Permits	4
Environmental Report Tracking System (ERTS) Toxics Cleanup Program (TCP) Initial Investigations	13



### Water Program:

Water System Design	7
Well Sites	35
Water Availability Review	78
Nitrate Analysis	4
Group A Assessments	20
Group A Technical Assistance	16
Reduce Sanitary Control Area	0

### Coliform:

Non Acute Group B Resolved	16
Pending	7
Acute Pending	0

### Nitrates:

Group B Yearly	4
Group B 4x/Year	3

### Meth:

Meth Labs Closed	0
Meth Labs Posted	1

### On-Site Program:

Septic Permit Applications	272
Operation & Maintenance Permits	5
Soil Evaluations	24
Permits Issued	242

### Combined EH Reviews:

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)	33
Administrative Variance	3
Administrative Approval	3
Boundary Line Adjustment	44
Large Lot Subdivision	2
Short Plat	10
Special Use Permit	4



## Food Safety Program:

### Permits Issued

Annual Permanent Permits	420
Seasonal Permits	4
Temporary Permits	382

### Food Handler Cards

Classes held	52
Cards issued from in-person classes	219
Cards issued from online classes	3,184

### Inspections

Temporary Establishment Inspections	126
Permanent Establishments Inspected (not schools)	537
Schools Inspected (41 schools, 2 times each)	82
Re-inspections	13
Pre-Opening Inspections	21

**Total Permanent Establishment Inspections** 653



## WIC - Women, Infant & Children

### WIC and the Farmers Market Nutrition Program Contributes to the Local Economy:

WIC Program (Includes checks for fresh fruits and vegetables):	\$1,820,501
Checks used for fresh fruits and vegetables only:	\$ 145,838
WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program:	\$ 7,060

64.1% of WIC families are working families and 68.2% of WIC families are living in poverty (even though they are working, the majority of WIC families are living in poverty).



WIC Nutrition Education Promotes  
Healthy Choices: Total Nutrition  
Education sessions: 9,805

### WIC Nutrition education:

- Emphasizes healthy habits so families can eat better and stay active to prevent obesity and chronic diseases
- Promotes breastfeeding for at least the first year of life
- Helps working mothers breastfeed longer by providing breast pumps
- Helps prevent early childhood caries by giving parents ideas for healthy snacks and stressing dental care by age one.

WIC is a preventive public health nutrition program that provides nutrition and breastfeeding education, nutritious foods, and improved access to regular health care & social services to low and moderate income women and young children with, or at risk of developing, nutrition-related health problems.

WIC helps families get the services they need:

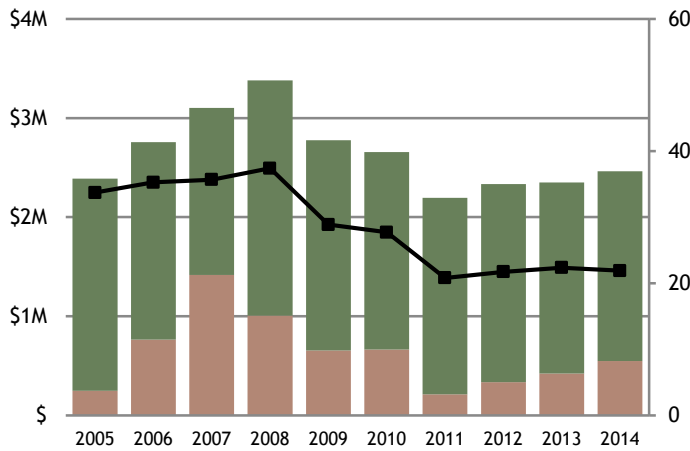
- Women, Infants and Children served in Lewis County during 2014: **4,302 clients**
- Infants and children under five: **3,221**
- Pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women: **1,190**

WIC attracts families to preventive health services. WIC Referrals: **15,175**

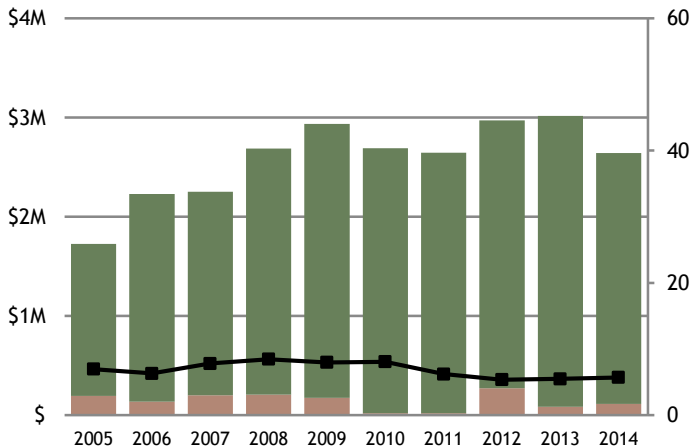


# Financial Report

## Public Health



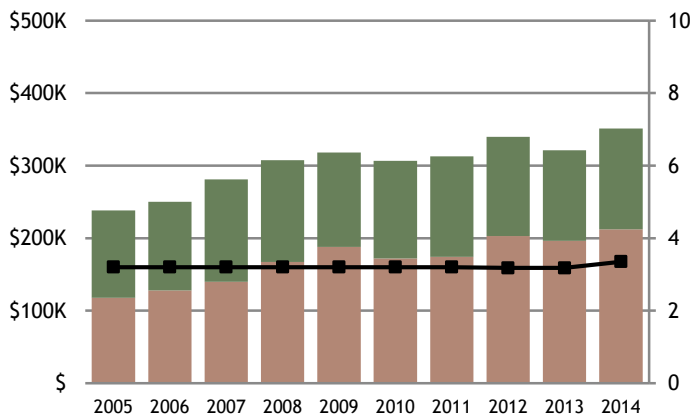
## Social Services



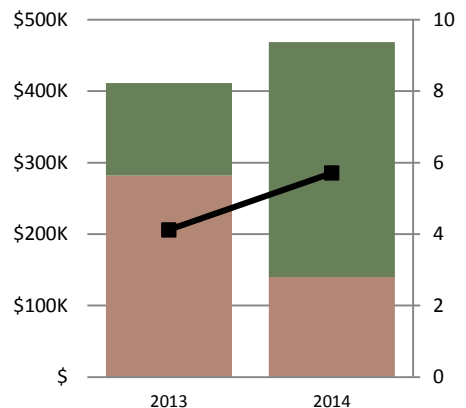
- Lewis County general fund
- Other funds
- Full-time equivalents (FTE)



## Animal Shelter



## Senior Services





*Danette York*      *Dr Rachel Wood*  
*Director*            *Health Officer*

## Mission, Vision, and Values

**Mission:** Lewis County Public Health & Social Services strives to promote, enhance, and protect the health and well-being of our community through partnerships, education, and prevention services.

**Vision:** Healthy people, strong families, and vibrant communities... a healthy Lewis County.

**Values:** Our department fosters and endorses an environment of **respect** in all areas of our daily activities along with a non-judgmental outlook toward the people we serve and those with whom we work.

**Integrity** guides each employee to uphold professional ethics and serve with honesty, fairness, loyalty, and trustworthiness.

As stewards of the community, we hold ourselves **accountable** for our behavior, performance, and all resources entrusted to our department.

We are **committed** to using the least intrusive method possible to achieve optimal public health – informing and educating wherever possible, directing and regulating **only** when necessary.

Recognizing individual strengths, we encourage **teamwork** through active collaboration to solve problems, make decisions, and achieve common goals.



## Message from the Director and Health Officer

Public health staff works daily to protect you and the rest of the community from infectious disease that can make you miserable at best, or threaten your life at worst. Take influenza, which has been active this winter, sickening hundreds of people across the country. The "flu" is a serious illness that can lead to hospitalization and even death.

So, what does Public Health do to protect you from diseases like influenza? Let's take a look: **Surveillance:** we are not spies, but we do keep an eye on diseases (whooping cough, measles, influenza) that are circulating within the community. We do this with the help of community partners like doctors, hospitals, labs, and schools. When you go to your doctor with a flu-like illness, you may be tested to see if you actually have the flu. Those results will be reported to public health locally, then to the State, and finally to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This helps Public Health track flu activity and how well the current vaccine is working to protect the population from illness.

**Isolation and Quarantine:** Isolation is used when people are already sick. Quarantine is used when people are exposed to an infectious disease and may be incubating the disease but are not yet sick. If the disease is easily spread to others, we may ask people to stay home (quarantine) even before they get sick so they do not infect others. In the case of the flu, people are contagious just as they start to get sick, before they even know they are coming down with something. This is also true for the measles. With measles, you can infect another person for at least four days before you get the rash, and up to four days afterwards.

Public health does not use isolation and quarantine often. We prefer people voluntarily self-isolate at home when they are sick. It is harder for people to self-quarantine, since they may not know they were exposed to an infectious illness. Typically, isolation and quarantine are done voluntarily, but there may be times when public health officials mandate that a person be quarantined.

**Contact tracing:** If you have a disease such as measles, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases or Ebola, we need to know with whom you have been in contact. We work hard to maintain the confidentiality of the person who is ill but we do let contacts know that they may have been exposed to a disease and are at risk of becoming ill.

**Monitoring exposed contacts:** Once we find a contact, we may ask them to self-monitor or we may actively monitor them to see if they develop symptoms of the infection. We may recommend testing, vaccinations or medications to prevent illness.

**Education:** We find any opportunity to educate people about illnesses and prevention, the benefits of vaccinations, and the importance of practicing good personal hygiene to stay healthy.

As you see, our work is never done and we always need your help. Here are ways you can stay healthy: a) eat well and balance work, play, and rest; b) wash your hands often and cover your cough; and c) if possible, get immunized against an illness. A yearly flu vaccination helps prevent and reduce illness and death from influenza in the community. The more of us who get vaccinated, the less likely it is that those who cannot receive the vaccination for medical reasons will get sick (this is called herd immunity). If we all work together, we can protect each other and be healthier.