

CHENANGO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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HEALTH EDUCATION DIVISION

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National Nurses Recognition Week is Sunday, May 6th through Saturday, May 12th, 2018. Chenango County Department of Health would like to extend a sincere thank you to the public health nurses, past and present, who have served the communities of Chenango County since 1920. A special thank you to the Registered Nurses currently employed by the Department. We appreciate you every single day! Below is a timeline of our nursing department; celebrating almost 100 years of existence!

TIMELINE OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING IN CHENANGO COUNTY

- 1920: PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICES ARE ADMINISTERED FROM THE BINGHAMTON DISTRICT OFFICE. NORWICH PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING COMMITTEE FORMED. FIRST TB CLINIC HELD AT NORWICH SCHOOLS. 50 NEW CASES OF TB DIAGNOSED IN COUNTY.
- 1921: FORMATION OF COUNTY NURSING SERVICES RECOMMENDED TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.
- 1924: NYS OFFERS MATCHING FUNDS FOR A COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. FIRST IMMUNIZATION CLINICS HELD WITH DIPHTHERIA AND SMALLPOX VACCINE ADMINISTERED.
- 1925: 52% OF CATTLE TESTED IN COUNTY HAVE TB. DR. PERRIN OF NYS DEPT. OF HEALTH OFFERS MATCHING FUNDS FOR FORMATION OF NURSING SERVICE. TWO NURSES ARE EMPLOYED WITH STATE AID MONIES, MISS TRACY AND MRS. LESTER.
- 1926: DR. BROOKS APPEALS FOR HUMAN HEALTH SVCS IN COUNTY; HOWEVER, PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING IS VOTED OUT OF THE BUDGET.
- 1934: AFTER APPEALS FROM MANY CIVIC GROUPS, FUNDING FOR THE NURSING SERVICE IS RESTORED TO THE COUNTY BUDGET WITH ONE NURSE HIRED AT \$3000 PER YEAR.
- 1935: SCHOOLS BECOME MORE INVOLVED WITH NURSING SERVICE. JESSE PADDLEFORD SPARKS PROGRAM FOR PROVIDING MILK TO POOR CHILDREN.
- 1941: \$6000 APPROPRIATED FOR 2 COUNTY NURSES AT THE URGING OF LOCAL DOCTORS.
- 1942: PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE FORMED WITH PERCY WOODRUFF AS CHAIRMAN AND CATHERINE WRIGHT AS FIRST PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE.
- 1945: SHERBURNE TB SANITARIUM CLOSES.
- 1946: PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S SERVICES OFFERED AS A RESULT OF INFANTILE PARALYSIS (POLIO).
- 1947: 24 NEW CASES OF POLIO DIAGNOSED IN COUNTY.
- 1950: FIRST HEART CLINIC HELD; 1951 FIRST TUMOR CLINIC HELD.
- 1955: NURSING STAFF INCREASED FROM 2 TO 5 NURSES.
- 1958: POLIO VACCINE BECOMES AVAILABLE. MIGRANT LABOR CAMPS ADDED TO HOME VISITING PROGRAM.
- 1961: DEPARTMENT IS RELOCATED TO THE NEW COUNTY BUILDING.
- 1964: HEART CLINIC DISBANDED DUE TO SUCCESS OF ANTIBIOTICS IN COMBATING STREP INFECTIONS CAUSING RHEUMATIC FEVER.
- 1965: MEASLES VACCINE BECOMES AVAILABLE. HOME CARE PROGRAM FORMALIZED. MEDICARE IS CREATED.

1967: 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF NURSING SERVICE.

1970—1974: FIRST SUPERVISING PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE EMPLOYED. PHYSICAL THERAPIST HIRED. DIRECTOR OF PATIENT SERVICES HIRED. FORMATION OF A TWO COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. EXPLORED, DECIDED NOT FEASIBLE.

1975: HOMER FOLK TB HOSPITAL CLOSES. COUNTIES BEGIN HOLDING CHEST CLINICS FOR TB PATIENTS.

1977: IMMUNIZATIONS BECOME MANDATORY FOR SCHOOL ENTRANCE. LARGE SCALE COUNTY OUBREAKS OF SALMONELLA AND SHIGELLA, INVOLVING 160 FAMILIES.

1983: PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ADDED TO NURSING SERVICE.

1984: INFANT HEALTH ASSESSMENT PROGRAM BEGINS. CHILDHOOD LEAD SCREENINGS BEGIN. AIDS EDUCATION REQUESTS GROW.

1986: ARTICLE 6 OF PUBLIC HEALTH LAW COMES INTO EFFECT, PROVIDING FUNDING FOR SERVICES.

1987: THE FIRST PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR HIRED.

1988: NURSING STAFF DIVIDED INTO HOME CARE & PREVENTION SERVICES.

1989: HOME CARE AVERAGING 277 PATIENTS A MONTH WITH 800 VISITS PER MONTH. 6,641 IMMUNIZED AT IMMUNIZATION CLINICS. 297 CHILDREN ATTEND WELL CHILD CLINICS. 840 ATTEND WIC CLINICS. 1,398 ATTEND FLU CLINICS. 198 CHILDREN SCREENED FOR LEAD. STAFF PROVIDES 122 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO 4,194 PARTICIPANTS.

1990: HOME CARE NURSES SEE 1,120 CLIENTS AND MAKE 11,418 HOME VISITS. PREVENT TEAM STAFF PROVIDE CARE TO 8,384 PEOPLE AT IMMUNIZATION, WELL CHILD, AND FLU CLINICS AND CONDUCT 1,103 HOME VISITS. 135 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WITH 6,074 PARTICIPANTS CONDUCTED. PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S PROGRAM SEES 84 NEW CASES WITH AN AVERAGE CASELOAD OF 294.

1992: EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM BEGINS.

1993: NURSING STAFF COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL JAIL FOR PREFILL OF PRISONER MEDICATIONS.

1996: NURSING DIVISION CLOSES TOWN SUBOFFICES AND CONSOLIDATES THE DEPARTMENT IN NORWICH.

1999: THE FIRST SENIOR FLU EVENT WAS HELD AT THE CAR MUSEUM. THE ANNUAL CABIN FEVER EVENT WAS HELD, LATER KNOWN AS SPRING FEVER. HOME CARE OPTIONS (HOP) PROGRAM TRANSITIONED FROM THE HOSPITAL TO PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING.

2002: 7812 HOME VISITS BY COUNTY NURSES. QA and QI AUDITS BEGIN AS STATE REGULATIONS BECOME STRINGENT. DIVISION OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ADDED TO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT.

2003: WELL CHILD CLINICS CLOSED SECONDARY TO MORE RESIDENTS WITH INSURANCE COVERAGE AND ABILITY TO SEE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.

2004: HOME CARE NURSING DIVISION BEGINS COMPUTERIZED CHARTING. NURSING STAFF TRAINED IN SMALLPOX VACCINATION.

2006: HOP PROGRAM TRANSITIONED TO NEWLY FORMED STATE PROGRAM: NEW YORK CONNECTS.

2008: CLOSURE OF THE CERTIFIED HOME HEALTH AGENCY. TWO NURSING POSITIONS ELIMINATED, OTHER POSITIONS LOST THROUGH ATTRITION.

2009: H1N1 PANDEMIC OCCURS WORLDWIDE. COUNTY NURSES ADMINISTER 5000+ VACCINES TO COUNTY RESIDENTS. HEALTH EDUCATOR POSITION CREATED.

2010: COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, DR. DAINES, VISITS THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. H1N1 FLU CLINICS CONTINUE.

2011: SAFE SLEEP PROJECT BEGINS PROVIDING PACK 'n PLAYS FOR INCOME ELIGIBLE PARENTS OF NEWBORNS.

2012: FIRST ANNUAL FIREHOUSE FLU CLINICS HELD AT COUNTY FIREHOUSES. FIRST ANNUAL LEAD WALK HELD.

2013: NYS DEPT. OF HEALTH REDEFINES ROLE OF PUBLIC HEALTH WITH EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION, OUTREACH, & PARTNER COLLABORATION. STATE REQUIRED COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLANS BEGIN.

2014—2016: 16 NEW INITIATIVES STARTED SUCH AS: PRENATAL YOGA, STEPPING ON, BABY AND ME TOBACCO FREE. EBOLA TRAINING IN 2014, AND ZIKA TRAINING IN 2016. ONE NURSING POSITION ELIMINATED.

2017 – CURRENT: 20 NURSING PROGRAMS CONTINUE INCLUDING SAFE SLEEP CAMPAIGN, BABY NOOK BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT PROGRAM, LACTATION COUNSELOR HOME VISITING, DISEASE INVESTIGATION AND CASE MANAGEMENT, LEAD POISON PREVENTION, AND IMMUNIZATION. PARTICIPATION IN 10 HEALTH COALITIONS OR ADVISORY COMMITTEES. STRONG LINKAGE TO COMMUNITY PARTNERS.

Promoting and protecting health, safety, and the quality of life in Chenango County