CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING, DISEASE PREVENTION, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES, NUTRITION AND COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT

1943 - 2003
Williamson County and Cities Health District is celebrating 60 years of providing public health services to Williamson County. I would like to express my deep appreciation to all the public health professionals that have worked to promote and protect the health of the people of Williamson County since 1943. I would especially like to acknowledge the current dedicated staff and consulting physicians that continue this tradition of excellence and service and the members of the Board of Health that serve as volunteers to set the course of this agency. Public health is the responsibility of the entire community and WCCHD’s mission would not be possible to achieve without multiple strong partnerships. Key among them are the local government members that form the Health District: Williamson County Commissioners’ Court and the cities of Round Rock, Georgetown, Cedar Park, and Taylor. The Texas Department of Health and the local area United Way organizations are essential partners along with the many health, human service, education, business, and service organizations in our community. Since 1943, WCCHD has continually evolved and adapted to address the changing public health needs of this county. An early emphasis was on immunization of children as new vaccines became available to prevent “childhood illnesses”. Between 1955 and 1969 vaccines became available to prevent polio, measles, mumps, and measles. Major emphasis was placed on screening and treatment of tuberculosis and syphilis. Environmental sanitation and rat control was an issue. Today, we must have continued vigilance to protect the safety of our food and water and encourage our residents to live in harmony with the environment. The Board of Health has

A Look Back

WCCHD Historical Dates  U.S. Public Health Historical Dates

1943  1943  1945
Bell/Williamson  Clinical  First
County Health  services begin  flu vaccine
Unit Established  in Georgetown
Dr. Harry Frey,  and Taylor
Director
In 1993, Karen Wilson was appointed Director of the Williamson County and Cities Health District. WCCHD adopted septic system rules to better protect the water supply and food establishment inspection regulations for food safety. We continue to stress prevention and health promotion in many areas, including immunizations and healthy lifestyle. We now grapple with the epidemic of obesity, sedentary lifestyle and the resulting chronic diseases and years of productive life lost. Community gardens, bike maps, walking trails maps, and community education are making a difference. A 21st century priority is preparedness to respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies such as the emergence of new infectious diseases. WCCHD is working with other community responders and is prepared to respond to emergencies. Another public health crisis is the loss of health insurance for many and the lack of access to health care for the uninsured. WCCHD staff links residents to available services that are often woefully inadequate to meet health care needs.

Determined community partners are working together to address this issue in Williamson County and the Central Texas region.

WCCHD is focused and committed to work with community partners to promote and protect the health of the people of Williamson County. As WCCHD embarks on its next 60 years, our vision is clear: Healthy people thriving in healthy communities.

Karen Wilson
Director
Williamson County and Cities Health District
From the very first, the health unit plan proved effective and met with popular approval and support. On January 1, 1936, there were seven health units in Texas serving nine counties. On January 1, 1938, there were twelve health units serving 14 counties, and on January 1, 1940, there were twenty-five units serving twenty-eight counties and four cities. About two years later the Williamson County Health Unit was organized.

The establishment of local boards of health represents the first official attempt to attack rural, as well as urban, health problems in America.

The nature of work of the Williamson County Health Unit, a part of the State Department of Health, is preventative. It deals with the control of communicable disease control, maternal hygiene, infant hygiene, preschool hygiene, school hygiene, special studies, sanitation, and public health education.
Dr. Clarence Skrovan became the first full-time Director of the Williamson County Health Unit on September 1, 1977. He replaced Dr. Meyers who then became the Director of the Bell County Health Department. It was at this time that Williamson County and Bell County became separate Health Units.

August 10, 1977 (newspaper unknown)

Dr. Harry Frey (left) chats with the man who will more than likely become the new director of the Williamson-Bell Health Unit, Dr. John B. Bryson of Cameron. Dr. Bryson is the only qualified physician who has applied for the job and the only one approved by the State Health Department. This picture was taken in front of the County Courthouse in Georgetown.

(approximate date of photo December 1957)

Taylor Daily Press

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August 10, 1977 (newspaper unknown)

1954
Fast-food restaurants

1955
Salk polio vaccine

1957
Dr. Harry Frey retires as Director, Dr. John Bryson becomes new Health Unit Director
L to R- Karen Wilson, Williamson County and Cities Health District Director, Margaret R. Fink (City of Round Rock), Lettie A. Lee (City of Georgetown), Scott D. Evans (Williamson County), Mary Faith Sterk, Board Chair (Williamson County), Katherine Galloway (City of Cedar Park), and Angela Tietz (City of Taylor)
WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT
1943-2003

The Health District has provided public health services to Williamson County since 1943. The agency was known as the Bell/Williamson County Health Unit until 1977 when the counties split and was then named the Williamson County Health Department. In 1989, the Williamson County & Cities Health District resulted from a cooperative agreement among the governing bodies of the cities of Cedar Park, Georgetown, Round Rock, and Taylor and the Williamson County Commissioners’ Court.

These five entities appoint citizen representatives to the Williamson County Board of Health, which has administrative authority and oversees the operation of the Health District. Each city appoints one member and the Commissioners’ Court appoints two members to staggered 3-year terms. The WCCHD Director is a non-voting member. The Board of Health is required to meet at least quarterly. Currently, the Board meets every two months. Meetings are open to the public.

MISSION

Williamson County and Cities Health District, in partnership with the community, promotes and protects the health of the people of Williamson County.

Initially, the health district consisted of a small core staff of a part-time director, three nurses, two clerical staff, and one inspector with offices in Georgetown and Taylor.

Today, the health district operates out of four office and clinic locations throughout Williamson County with over 90 staff members, consulting medical doctors, one health authority, and volunteers.

1964
First Surgeon General’s report linking smoking to lung cancer

1964
Food Stamp Act passed

1965
Cigarette warning label

1965
Thanksgiving turkey pop-up temperature gauge
The objective of maternity care is to find all prospective mothers as early in pregnancy as possible, and to arrange for adequate nursing and medical supervision throughout the prenatal, natal and postnatal period.

In infant hygiene, the nurse arranges with the parent for medical supervision and instructs the mother in carrying out the doctor's orders in relation to feeding the baby. She aids in securing smallpox vaccination and diphtheria immunization during the baby's first year; assists in communicable disease control by recognition of early symptoms and in securing medical supervision.
The Public Health Nursing Division offers preventative health care services to individuals and families who do not have access to private care. Public health nurses provide prenatal care, child health check-ups, immunizations, and selected adult health screening. The Texas Vaccine for Children (TVFC) program is administered through this division. Community physicians and clinics are provided with state-supplied vaccine to administer to eligible children. The staff also provides individual and group health education and referral to other community services. One outreach program is TIP - Toddler Injury and Illness Prevention, a collaborative project with Williamson County EMS to promote child safety seats and immunizations. WCCHD contracts with three local physicians to provide specialized consultation in maternal health, child and adult health, and communicable diseases. The communicable disease physician consultant also serves as the Williamson County Health Authority.

Pictured above:
Judy Carver, Director of Public Health Nursing with family and friends.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>Home smoke detector</td>
</tr>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>EPA, OSHA established</td>
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<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>WIC nutrition program began in the U.S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Food nutrition label developed</td>
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</table>
The benefit of the free TB X-Ray unit brought to Taylor and vicinity each year is invaluable in discovering tuberculosis in its early stages as well as saving citizens thousands of dollars in cold cash. The unit strives to obtain immunization of all susceptibles of communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, typhoid fever, diptheria, smallpox, and venereal diseases.

All contacts of cases of communicable diseases are investigated by the unit to determine the source and possible spread of the infection. Tuberculosis programs of control are developed, including casefinding by tuberculosis testing of contacts; leading early cases, minimal and childhood types, to the care of the family physician for periodic examination and advice, and conducts epidemiological investigation of cases found.

May, 1951, Taylor Daily Press
The Communicable Disease Division of the Health District provides education, counseling, testing, screening, investigation, and referrals of diseases which could be of concern to the public’s health.

The Communicable Disease Division investigates and follows-up on reports of diseases which could be a threat to the public, such as meningitis, Hepatitis and measles.

The Communicable Disease Division coordinates the Health District’s Bioterrorism and emergency preparedness and response plan. The staff regularly works with schools, restaurants, daycares, emergency management personnel and other individuals in the community.

Pictured above:
Members of the HIV Coalition held a candle-light vigil in remembrance of AIDS victims and to raise AIDS awareness for World AIDS Day December 2002.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Swine flu shots result in some cases of Guillain-Barre Syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Dr. Clarence Skrovan is appointed Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>WCCHD issues first septic license</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Last outbreak of Polio in the U.S.</td>
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Educational work in sanitation carried on by the local unit includes: showing need for safe water supply, both public and private, teaching proper handling of milk in the home, instructing in the danger of disease transmission by flies, showing need for proper disposal of human waste.

This work entails the periodic inspection of all food establishments, the conducting of a food handlers school, meat inspection, and rat control.

May, 1951, Taylor Daily Press

1978
WIC program begins, Dr. Joan Schwartz is the first WIC Director

1980s
Fitness craze

1980
Infant formula standards

1981
AIDS virus identified
The Environmental Health Services Division is concerned with protection of the environment and enforcement of County, State and Federal regulations. Environmental health programs focus on preventing communicable disease and environmental conditions that could be harmful to the health of Williamson County residents and visitors.

The Environmental Services Division enforces the On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSF) regulations in Williamson County. The staff also administers the County’s flood plain program. All food establishments are routinely inspected up to four times each year and more often if significant violations are identified. School food programs are inspected three times a year. This team also inspects daycares. Food handler education classes are provided throughout the county every week. The staff investigates complaints of public health nuisance violations. The staff also participates in special community initiatives such as motor oil recycling and hazardous household waste clean-up days.

Pictured above:
Paulo Pinto, Director of Environmental Services, and Jean Jackson, WIC.

1980
As early as 1980, Outreach Clinics served people in Granger, Bartlett, Round Rock, Leander, Hutto

1983
WCCHD Round Rock Clinic started; moved to present location in 1986

1986
Inception of CIHCP, expanded with PHC in 1987
The Williamson County Health Unit devotes its time to public health and preventative measures only. It is not in competition with physicians in the county because its activities are not curative but preventative. The Unit functions to control and investigate communicable diseases in the county under ordinary conditions.

It is an established fact that the health of the city affects the entire population of the county, and in turn the health of the city depends upon the health of the rural areas nearby.
The Community Health Promotion Division initiates and participates in needs/assets assessment activities and in collaboration, compilation, projection, and dissemination of health data and statistics. The division is taking the lead in assisting communities to reduce risk factors and improve their health in response to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) and the Youth Activity, Weight, and Nutrition Program (YAWN). The division coordinates, plans, and promotes education programs within the Health District and the county. Staff members participate in multiple collaborations and coalitions and are involved with many community development initiatives. Special programs provided through this division include community planning strategies projects with Leander, Round Rock, and Taylor city planning departments, the Shaken Baby Awareness Campaign, walking trails and bicycle route mapping, community gardens, and Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) community outreach and mobilization program. This division also coordinates Health District contact with the media, maintains the WCCHD website, coordinates Public Health Week activities, coordinates development of promotional literature.

1990
Helpline Service begins

1991
Social Services Division receives NACCHO Award
With funding from the Texas Department of Health (TDH) Bureau of Community Oriented Public Health (COPH), the Social Services Division arranges for primary and preventative health care services for eligible individuals through the WCCHD nursing clinics and through community physicians and clinics. This staff also administers Williamson County's Indigent Health Care Program (CIHCP). WCCHD's Social Services Division has been designated by the Governor's office as the information and referral (I & P) center for Williamson County and operates the Healthcare Helpline. A social worker is “on-call” during business hours to quickly respond to requests for information and assistance with health and social services needs. The social work staff provides case management services to high risk pregnant women and children. They also provide case management services to medically fragile children who receive Medicaid benefits. The Rx Acess program is administered through this division and assists individuals with no other resources to obtain medications through the indigent care programs of pharmaceutical companies. The Children's Health Insurance (CHIP) outreach program is administered through this division.

1992
USDA Food Pyramid replaces “Four Food Groups”

1993
Dr. Skrovan becomes TDH Region 7 Director

1993
Karen Wilson is appointed new WCCHD Director
The Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) serves over 4,000 residents of Williamson County each month. A federally funded program coordinated by the Texas Department of Health, WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and food vouchers to pregnant, postpartum women, infants, and children less than five years of age. WIC services are provided at each of the Health District's four offices, as well as an outreach clinic at Bartlett Head Start. WIC also maintains an active breastfeeding peer-counseling program. WIC peer counselors are WIC mothers that have breastfed at least one child, and have gone through extensive training to enable them to support and encourage other breastfeeding moms. The peer counselors currently offer services at all of the WIC clinics and provide phone consultation as needed. WIC representatives participate in the Williamson County Breastfeeding Coalition and offer community nutrition education activities.

Pictured above:
Jean Jackson has been with the WIC program since it began in 1978.
Williamson County & Cities Health District funding is derived from contributions from the member governments, Texas Department of Health contracts, client fees, Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement, United Way contributions and other grants, contracts, and contributions. The Health District’s fiscal year is January-December and the 2002 operating budget was more than $3.9 million. In addition to funds, Williamson County contributes facilities, utilities, janitorial and maintenance services, telephone, payroll processing, administration of the employee benefits program, workers compensation insurance, vehicle insurance, and computer network support.
2002 Health District Services Summary

Environmental Health
Food Establishment Inspections 3,035 inspections completed
Food Handler Education Classes 133 classes provided
Septic System (OSSF) Inspections 4,988 inspections conducted
New Subdivision Reviews 177 reviews
Flood Plain Administration 90 construction evaluations

Social Services
Total HELPLINE calls 16,887 calls
Primary Health Care Program 1,402 persons enrolled
County Indigent Health Care Program 797 persons enrolled
Diabetic Management Services 169 clients
Case Management 411 cases
RxAccess 684 individuals assisted
Dept. of Human Service eligibility 1,084 assisted
Children Health Insurance Program 5,324 assisted with applications

Women Infants' and Children's Nutrition Program (WIC)
Clinic Sites: Vouchers for Nutritious Foods
Georgetown 12,940
Taylor 9,030
Round Rock 21,545
Cedar Park 13,628
Seton North West Hospital 599
Bartlett Head Start 486
Total: 58,228

1999 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) completed for Williamson County
1999 Septic rules updated
2000 County wide needs assessment
Public Health Nursing
Prenatal Services 3,489 clinic visits
Child Health 423 clinic visits
Communicable Disease 1,054 reported
146 investigated
Immunizations 23,354 administered

Community Health Promotion
Conducted Community Assessments 2001 data updated on 10 key indicators
Garden Sites Selected 17
Garden Plots Designed 68
Garden Plots Adopted 58
Community Collaborations Supported 21
Meals on Wheels 39 participants
Walk Across Texas 294 Seniors enrolled
Diabetes Support Groups 27 members
R oads evaluated for bike routes 324
Williamson County Bike Maps 1000 designed and distributed
Shaken Baby Education Classes 897 participants
Health Fairs 19 attended
Mapped Walking Routes 143 completed

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<th>2001</th>
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<th>2002</th>
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<td>Ms. Wilson</td>
<td>Social Services</td>
<td>Community Gardens, Williamson County Bicycle Map, and Neighborhood Walking Route Map projects established</td>
<td>Social Services Division receives Innovative Program Award from SWLHC</td>
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<tr>
<td>receives National Director of Public Health Award</td>
<td>receives CHIP Award</td>
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<td><strong>State Contracts</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Williamson County</strong></td>
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<td><strong>City Contributions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cedar Park</td>
<td>44,128</td>
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<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>40,975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Round Rock</td>
<td>102,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taylor</td>
<td>24,044</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leander</td>
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<td><strong>Client Service Fees</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Medicaid/Medicare</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Medicaid Admin Cost Claiming</strong></td>
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<td><strong>United Way</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater Williamson County</td>
<td>49,452</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgetown United Way</td>
<td>21,843</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taylor United Way</td>
<td>712</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Insure-a-Kid</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Funding</strong>:</td>
<td>$3,913,341</td>
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WCCHD CEDAR PARK CLINIC
350 Discovery Blvd.
Cedar Park, TX 78613
512-260-4240

WCCHD GEORGETOWN CLINIC
100 West 3rd
Georgetown, TX 78626
512-930-4386

WCCHD ROUND ROCK CLINIC
211 Commerce Cove #109
Round Rock, TX 78664
512-248-3257

WCCHD TAYLOR CLINIC
115 West 6th
Taylor, TX 76574
512-352-5201

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
301 Main Street
Georgetown, TX 78626
512-930-4390

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION
211 Commerce Cove #113
Round Rock, TX 78664
512-248-3255

SOCIAL SERVICES
211 Commerce Cove #114
Round Rock, TX 78664
512-248-3252

WCCHD ADMINISTRATION
100 West 3rd
Georgetown, TX 78626
512-930-4387

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HEALTHCARE HELPLINE
512-248-3252 OR 800-890-6296

WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT WEB ADDRESS
www.publichealthwilliamson.org