What does the County Health Department Do that Psychiatrists Should Know About?

Gale R. Burstein, MD, MPH, FAAP, FSAHM
Commissioner, Erie County Department of Health,
Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, SUNY at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Buffalo, NY
Erie County Department of Health

The Mission of the Erie County Department of Health is to promote and protect the health, safety and well-being of Erie County residents through active prevention, education, enforcement, advocacy and partnership.
Division of Public Health Services & Surveillance

- **Youth Detention Facility:** necessary medical evaluation and care of residents
- **Epi and Surveillance:** investigates, monitors, reports communicable diseases
- **STD Clinic:** STD/HIV testing and treatment
- **TB Clinic:** testing and Tx, case management
- **Community Wellness:** Expanded Syringes Access and Disposal Program, Worksite Wellness, Tobacco Use, Prevention and Control, Wellness/Chronic Dz Prevention
- **Refugee Program:** health assessments/immunizations
- **Immunization Clinic:** school required immunizations, quality improvement.
Division of Correctional Health Services

- Primary healthcare services to inmates
- Erie County Holding Center and the Erie County Correctional facility
- Work closely with forensic mental health
Division of Special Needs

• **Early Intervention Program:**
  - evaluation and therapy services
  - children birth - 3 yo
  - dx of developmental delay

• **Preschool Program:**
  - evaluations, educational and therapy services
  - children birth - 5 yo
  - dx developmental delay
Division of Public Health Laboratory

• National Laboratory Response Network (LRN):
  o Advanced lab services to 17 counties (Western and Finger Lakes Region)
  o Specialized lab facilities and equipment to contain and analyze biological agents
  o Lab analysis of clinical (human) and environmental samples

• Monitoring and Surveillance programs:
  o Influenza
  o STDs
  o Water (beach) Quality
  o Antibiotic resistance
Division of Environmental Health
Permitted Programs

- Community water systems (regulatory oversight to ensure water quality and adequate quantity)
- Non-community public water systems
- Public water lines, sewer, onsite wastewater treatment
- Public swimming pools, beaches
- Campground plans
- Water treatment, pumping and storage facilities
- Remodeled food service establishments
- Private wells requiring waiver
- Onsite wastewater treatment
- Mobile home and campgrounds, temporary residences, migrant labor camps, agricultural fairgrounds
- Property transfer certifications
- Public food service inspection
- Food-safety inspections of food stands and trailers at temporary events and festivals
- Tattoo program, piercing program
- Children’s camps
- Rooming house programs
- Bed and breakfast programs.
Division of Environmental Health

Non-Permitted

- Rabies Control Program
- Rodent Control Program
- Public Health Nuisance Program
- Injury Control & Prevention Program
- Healthy Neighborhoods
- Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention
- Child Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
- Lead Hazard Control Program
Division of Medical Examiner

- Investigates death to determine cause and manner of death
  - criminal violence
  - neglect
  - casualty
  - suicide
  - any suspicious / unusual manner

- Forensic toxicology lab
- Specialized lab services
- Analysis of postmortem body fluids, tissues
- Analysis for presence and quantity of drugs/poisons
- Drug facilitated sexual assault investigations
- Testing support to police agencies investigation DWI cases
Division of Emergency Medical Services & Public Health Emergency Preparedness/Response

- NYS EMS Course Sponsor
- Emergency medical training to 1st responders and EMTs
- Training for advanced EMTs and paramedics
- Coordinates medical communications between ambulances, hospitals and emergency health care providers, Medical Emergency Radio Systems (MERS)
- Preparedness planning and response for Erie County

- Response and planning for public health emergencies and disaster situations involving mass casualties
- Coordination of critical incident debriefing sessions and pre-incident training for emergency services response personnel for Erie, Genesee, Niagara and Wyoming Counties
- Coordinate, recruit volunteers conduct training for members of the Specialized Medical Assistance Response Team (SMART)
Questions???