



MEDIA RELEASE

Canton City Public Health

Contact: James M. Adams, Health Commissioner
Telephone: (330) 489-3231
420 Market Avenue North, Canton, OH 44702
Date: November 25, 2019

For Immediate Release

Canton City Public Health Awarded National Accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board

CANTON, OH - On November 19, 2019, Canton City Public Health joined the ranks of over 236 local public health departments across the nation, 34th in Ohio, as accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The mission of voluntary national accreditation is to improve and protect the health of the public by transforming the quality and performance of public health services.

“We are thrilled to be recognized by the community and PHAB for the outstanding work our staff does every day”, exclaimed Jim Adams, Health Commissioner. Further elaborating, Mr. Adams stated, “Starting in 2016, Canton City Public Health began the process of transforming the health department using voluntary national standards as a guide. This has been a huge culture shift for our staff and the department. Applying the national standards to the work we do has made us more responsive to the needs of the community and more accountable. It will allow us to continue to improve the health of our community.”

The national accreditation process, jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, assesses a health department’s capacity to carry out essential public health services, manage an effective health department, and maintain strong and effective communications. To receive accreditation, a health department undergoes a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment which includes providing documentation on over 100 standards and measures pertaining to services offered, followed by a site visit. During the site visit in July, the reviewers made special mention of Canton City Public Health’s strong ties to the community and development of novel new programs such as SWAP, our syringe exchange and harm reduction outreach, and THRIVE which focuses on infant mortality reduction. Also recognized was the fact that the health department is a trusted source of information for the community and its partners.

In order to maintain our designation as an accredited health department moving forward, we will go through Reaccreditation. Reaccreditation will focus on assessment of an accredited health department’s continued improvement and advancement thereby becoming increasingly effective at improving the health of the population they serve.

“It is really about partnering. Partnering with the community; partnering with staff; partnering with other health departments and agencies in the area. Together we can improve the health of those that we serve.” stated Adams.

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