2012 WALHDAB Award Winners

Health Officer of the Year
Kurt Eggebrauch
City of Appleton Health Department

Kurt Eggebrauch is being recognized as Health Officer of the Year. Kurt was nominated by the Appleton Area School District (AASD). AASD Assistant Superintendent, Valerie Dreier had this to say, “Kurt and his team are very responsive, sensitive, and respectful of all individuals throughout our community who need and benefit from their assistance. Kurt is an outstanding resource with unending knowledge, specifically when faced with emergency health conditions and situations.”

The AASD and the City of Appleton Health Department have worked closely over the years to develop a public health emergency plan that has included responses to the H1N1 flu-related illness, Pertussis cases, and other community health situations. During the 2009-10 flu-related health emergency, area schools were converted into mass clinics where nurses provided vaccine to students with parent permission. In addition, updates regarding flu-related illness were posted to the AASD home page. School secretaries gathered surveillance data on specific symptoms when parents reported student absences due to illness. This data was shared with the City of Appleton Health Department and tracked as a component of their surveillance of flu-related illness in our community.

The AASD continues collaboration with the City of Appleton Health Department. For the 2011-12 school year AASD maintained nearly weekly contact regarding cases of Pertussis. This communication resulted in timely information to the community regarding facts and symptoms of Pertussis as well as direction on care. Also, an active case of Tuberculosis was handled with sensitivity for privacy of the student. Subsequent actions, led by Kurt and his team, protected the health of the school community.

The mission of the Appleton Health Department is to safeguard the environment, promote public health, and protect consumers in the community by providing high quality services that are responsive to the needs of the people. Kurt and his team truly support this mission each and every day. They believe that prevention is the most effective public health strategy.

Board of Health Member of the Year
Dennis Wedde
Waushara County Board of Health

Dennis has served on the Waushara County Board of Health since 2000. He became Chair in 2008. Dennis has been very active in his role as a member of WALHDAB. He not only attends meetings regularly but participates and has served on the WALHDAB Board as Co-President repeatedly (2007-2008 and 2010-2011). We often have few county board supervisors that are active participants in WALHDAB and willing to sit on the Board, so Dennis has been repeatedly recruited. Has and represented Wisconsin at NALBOH several times.

Dennis is a retired teacher. This comes up often in our meetings. Dennis was proud to educate yesterday’s youth and today continues to provide education in public health by being our voice, advocate and representative for sound policy development in Waushara County and Wisconsin.

In 2008 he was recruited by the state team for the Quality Initiative. Nancy Young, who worked with the Wisconsin Public Health Quality Institute Initiative, had this to say about Dennis, “I had the pleasure of working directly with Dennis Wedde in his role as WALHDAB advisor to the Wisconsin Public Health Quality Initiative from 2008 forward. As an elected official, he brought very important perspective to the advisory group and represented the project wonderfully whether it was on a routine advisory teleconference call or in a state or national meeting. Dennis’s integrity, sense of humor, thoughtfulness, commitment to public health quality improvement, and strong leadership proved essential to the WIQI project and made him a delightful team member. I enthusiastically endorse Dennis Wedde as an award nominee.”