

Annual Report 2014

VAN BUREN/ CASS DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT



www.vbcassdhd.org

Serving the Residents of Van Buren and Cass Counties

Hartford
57418 CR 681
Hartford, MI 49057
(269) 621-3143

Mattawan
23200 Red Arrow Hwy
Mattawan, MI 49071
(269) 668-6715

Dowagiac
302 So Front Street
Dowagiac, MI 49047
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The **MISSION** of Van Buren/Cass District Health Department is to promote AND contribute to the highest level of health possible for the people of Van Buren and Cass County by:

- Identifying & reducing health risks in the community,
- Detecting, investigating & preventing the spread of disease,
- Promoting healthy lifestyles,
- Promoting a safe & healthful environment,
- Promoting the availability of accessible quality health care services through the private sector, and
- Providing quality health care services to those with limited resources and access.

Our **VISION** is to be responsive to a dynamic and diverse environment. In addition to the programs and services provided to our residents, we serve as a catalyst for improving health and quality of life by collaborating with other health care providers and agencies.

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department believes in the following core **VALUES**:

- All people have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- All people should have access to needed services that achieve optimal outcomes.
- All people should be empowered to exercise informed choices.
- Continually improve both organizational management and service delivery.
- Diversity and cultural competence is integrated into all service activities.
- Enhance the involvement of persons served in all of our service activities.

In support of our mission, vision and values, the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's **PURPOSES** are:

- Develop and maintain current, field-driven operations to improve the value and responsiveness of the programs and services we provide.
- Reduce disease and better the health of the whole public.
- Seek input and be responsive to the individuals we serve.
- Provide information and education, as needed, to the public.
- Provide health services where they are not otherwise available.
- Be committed to the improvement of our programs and services with a focus on the needs and outcomes of the clients we serve by continually learning about and improving health and linking to other institutions and organizations.
- Prepare to respond to a public health emergency or disaster.
- Provide leadership when needed.
- Providing health care options that are efficient and cost effective.
- Partnering to provide best solutions to complex health issues.

2014 District Board of Health Members

Dwight Dyes “Skip”, Chairperson, Cass County Commissioner
Don Hanson Vice-Chairperson, Van Buren County
Commissioner

Richard Firestone, Van Buren County Commissioner

Vicki Vaughn, Cass County Member at Large

Annie File, Cass County Commissioner

Robert Linderman, Van Buren Member at Large

Dr. Vincent Cabras, Van Buren Member at Large



Front Row: Vice-Chairperson Don Hanson, Chairperson Dwight “Skip” Dyes

Back Row: Richard Firestone, Vicki Vaughn, Robert Linderman, Annie File, Dr. Vincent Cabras

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VBC Jail Health Director & Chief Medical Examiner

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Cary Hindley
Food Service 269-621-3143 ext. 1377

The 10 Essential Public Health Services

1. **Monitor** health status to identify community health problems
2. **Diagnose and investigate** health problems and health hazards in the community
3. **Inform, educate, and empower** people about health issues.
4. **Mobilize** community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
5. **Develop policies and plans** that support individual and community health efforts
6. **Enforce** laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
7. **Link** people to needed personal health services and assures the provision of healthcare when otherwise unavailable.
8. **Assure** a competent public health and personal healthcare workforce.
9. **Evaluate** effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population based health services.
10. **Research** for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

Substance Abuse Services

Van Buren/Cass District Health Department Awarded Three-Year CARF Accreditation

CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) International announced that Van Buren/Cass District Health Department has been accredited for a period of three years for its Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Services. This accreditation is the fourth consecutive Three-Year Accreditation that will extend through October 2017.

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process and continuous improvement services that center on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARF International, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services. For more information about the accreditation process, please visit the CARF website at www.carf.org.

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and is an indication of the organization's dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the lives of the persons served. Services, personnel, and documentation clearly indicate an established pattern of practice excellence. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process. It has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit its commitment to offering

programs and services that are measurable, accountable, and of the highest quality.

Services

During FY2013/2014 Van Buren/Cass District Health Department Substance Abuse Services provided a variety of treatment and prevention services to residents of Van Buren and Cass County.

Treatment

Outpatient Treatment Referrals:

- Total Referrals (**457**) for FY2013/2014. Referrals are coming from a variety of sources. The referrals are coming from the court system, New Directions, DHS, CMH, SARF, self, family and others.

Outpatient Services:

- At this time, 1.5 hour outpatient Men's Relapse Prevention Group and Women's Living in Balance Groups are being offered to clientele. 1,839 outpatient groups were held in FY 2013/2014. This is an increase from the 1,443 groups that were held in FY2012/2013. This is the third consecutive year in which outpatient group numbers have increased.
- A total of 1,431 outpatient individual sessions were conducted during the FY2013/2014. This is an increase from 1,118 individual sessions conducted in FY2012/2013.

New Direction Criminal Justice Drug Treatment Program:

During FY2013/2014, approximately 65 individuals participated in New Directions. 19 individuals graduated from the program, saving approximately 1,980 jail bed days.

Prevention

Van Buren Substance Abuse Task Force: The Substance Abuse Task Force has formed subcommittees to address methamphetamine, alcohol abuse, prescription medicine abuse, and judicial/law enforcement. The Substance Abuse Task Force meets monthly with the committees meeting as needed. During FY2013/2014, the Substance Abuse Task Force hosted Ken Stecker, who presented on “Driving Under the Influence Laws and Legal Update 2014.”

Towards No Drug Abuse (TND): TND is a SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration) model program. The program consists of an educational curriculum that addresses adolescent alcohol and other drug use. The program can be conducted in both the school and community settings.



Specialty Courts/Law Enforcement Committee: A partnership continues between the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department and the Van Buren County Drug Treatment and Family Treatment Courts to provide substance abuse treatment services to the programs participants during the FY2013/2014. During FY2013/2014, the Substance Abuse Department provided 1,205 outpatient groups for Auricular Detoxification Acupuncture, Trauma, Relapse Prevention, Seeking Safety, Celebrating Families, and Parenting for Drug Treatment Court participants. This is an increase from 587 outpatient groups provided for Drug Treatment Court participants in FY2012/13. Additionally, partnership continues to develop between the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department and the Van Buren County Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program to provide substance abuse treatment services to the programs participants during the FY2013/2014.

TND Small Group: Conducts 6 (2 hour) sessions to a class of 5-10 students referred by schools, the court system, and concerned parents. Class participants are facing penalties for lesser drug use and do not meet criteria for treatment.

Classroom Speaking Engagements: Prevention workers participated with various schools to educate health classes regarding alcohol and other drugs, chemical dependency, family dynamics, and tobacco, and drug advertising. Prevention workers presented to South Haven, Gobles, and Paw Paw schools.

Professional Speaking Engagements: Prevention workers provided a variety of professional in-services during the fiscal year.



Van Buren/Cass County Girls on the Run: Girls on the Run is a non-profit prevention program that encourages preteen girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through running. The goals of the program are to encourage positive emotional, social, mental, spiritual, and physical development. During FY 2013/2014, Girls on the Run reached and changed the lives of 335 girls and their families during the 2014 season, representing 12 schools from Van Buren County and 4 schools from Cass County. During FY 2013/2014, there were 60 girls participating with Girls on Track (Middle School) consisting of 4 schools in Van Buren County and one school in Cass County. This is an increase from the 319 girls that participated in Girls on the Run and 54 girls that participated in FY2012/2013.

Keep A Clear Mind: Keep A Clear Mind (KACM) is a take-home drug education program for fifth grade students and their parents. The take-home material consists of four weekly sets of activities to be completed by parents and their children together. The program also uses parent newsletters and incentives. KACM lessons are based on a social skills training model and designed to help children develop specific skills to refuse and avoid the use of “gateway” drugs. This unique, early intervention program has been shown to positively

influence known risk factors for later substance use. This program was implemented in Bangor, Bloomington, Covert, Decatur, Gobles, Hartford, Lawton, Mattawan, Paw Paw, and South Haven schools during the 2013/14 school year, serving approximately 959 students. This is an increase from the 605 students that participated in Keep A Clear Mind during FY2012/2013.



Dental Health

Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's Community Dental Clinics provide quality dental care at an affordable price for adults and children covered by Medicaid, MIChild, Healthy Kids Dental and various other insurances. Funding is provided by federal, state and United Way grants which allow us to see the uninsured or underinsured and veterans at discounted rates. Due to an increase in the number of clients seen, additional staff were hired to handle billing.

Dental Services include but are not limited to: Preventive Services (education, brushing techniques, flossing techniques, changing detrimental habits, fluoride applications, cleanings, sealants, space maintainers); Restorative Services (amalgams, composites, pulpotomies, stainless steel crowns); Prosthetic Services (partials, dentures); Surgical Services (extractions). In addition we provide Outreach/Prevention Programs to local Head Start Programs, Public Schools, and other community programs as requested.

2014 was a busy year for dental. Not only did we open a facility in Mattawan but we also moved Dowagiac to a newer and much larger facility. Dowagiac now has 10 operatories; Mattawan has 6 operatories and Hartford has 9.

The Dental Department was awarded a sealant grant from MDCH and plans are in process to begin seeing students in area schools in 2015. The grant money will be used to purchase mobile equipment. Students requiring further treatment will be referred out to area dentists or clinics of the parent's choice.

In 2014 the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's Community Dental Clinics employed 13 full and/or part-time Dentists, 9 full and/or part-time Hygienists, and 25 Support Staff which include, (Certified Assistants, Registered Dental Assistants with extended privileges and front desk personnel). Additionally the Dental Laboratory has expanded and additional staff was hired to handle the every growing need for dentures and partials. The Dental Lab is housed at the Hartford facility and continues to be a success.

Currently, our dental program has approximately 22,000 patients utilizing our oral health services.



Health Promotions

The Health Promotions Department provides health education, resources and public information. Services include the coordination of classroom presentations, community presentations, health fairs, and partnerships with other local agencies.

Van Buren/Cass District Health Department partnered with the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department to host a Child Passenger Safety event and car seat check on September 20, 2014. The event was held at the Van Buren Technology Center. Participants had their current car seat checked and if necessary received a new car seat that was installed by certified car seat technicians. Additional information on passenger safety was also distributed. To find a certified tech to check your seat, visit cert.safekids.org.





Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of unintentional injury related death among children ages 14 and under. Each year in the United States, nearly 1,600 child occupants ages 14 and under die in motor vehicle crashes and close to 228,000 are injured as occupants in motor vehicles. Improperly restrained children are more likely to be injured, to suffer more severe injuries and to die in motor vehicle crashes than children who are restrained properly. The Child Death Review Team and The Health Department work to help each child ride safely. The Health Department continues to work in conjunction with the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department who now facilitate the Car Seat Voucher Program. Car seats should be replaced whenever a seat has been in an accident, has been recalled, damaged, or if it is no longer the right fit for the child. Parents and/or caregivers that could not afford a car seat were referred to the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department.



Once again, the public health department partnered with the ISD Early Childhood Development to sponsor the Back to School Bonanza in August. It was estimated that 1,200 children received a new backpack as well as 350 families from 11 school districts were present and over 30 community agencies and/or programs were available to distribute program materials and additional school supplies. Van Buren/Cass District Health Department started this event 10 years ago and continues to work with the VBISD to provide children with school supplies and information to start the school year.

The Van Buren Substance Abuse Task Force partnered with the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department to secure and place 9 Red Med Boxes in Van Buren County. The Red Med Box is an easy way to dispose of your unused or expired medications. This helps protect our community against prescription abuse, addiction, and accidental or intentional overdose. A total of 1306.5 pounds of prescriptions were collected in 2014 alone. To find a list of locations of these boxes in Van Buren County please visit www.vbcassdhd.org.

Environmental Health

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's Environmental Health Division is compliant with a broad set of issues affecting public health in Van Buren and Cass Counties, including septic system design and inspection, well construction code compliance, body art licensing, raw land evaluations, campgrounds and swimming pool inspections, non-community public water supply oversight, subdivision development, housing complaint investigations, water supply monitoring in areas of contamination and public beach monitoring along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

#Well Inspections– 198	#Well Permits– 600
Permits– 453	#Septic
#Home Loan Evaluations- 101	#Active Non-Community
facilities-252	
#Public Pools-87	#Body Art Facilities-2

Food Service

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's Food Service Program identifies food handling issues associated with the preparation, processing and serving of food and beverages within our district. This includes (1) licensing and inspecting fixed mobile and transitory food establishments, (2) issuing temporary permits to transient vendors that provide food at our summer festivals and special events, (3) performing plan reviews which is an essential part of establishment development and operator training, and (4) providing educational and training opportunities to food service

operators, and (5) when food related illnesses do occur, effectively track and reduce those risks.

#Licensed Establishments– 400

#Temporary Licenses– 139

#Plan Reviews-5

#Foodborne Illnesses-2

#Foodborne Outbreaks-0

#New/Change Ownership-15

#Smoking Related Complaints-0



2014 Emergency Preparedness Report

2014 marked another great milestone year in emergency planning and preparation for the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department. Throughout 2014 the agency was actively involved in planning and preparing local staff to participate in the Hostile Action Based Exercise for the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant. This is the first exercise of this kind and caliber in Van Buren County. The exercise consisted of joining forces with Emergency Management, State Police, neighboring counties and Palisades Nuclear Power Plant to test the efforts of off-site responders in response to reports of hostile action, or terrorist activity, at the plant. The Full-Scale Exercise tested multiple components simultaneously. The components were the Emergency Operations Center, an Incident Command Post, a Staging Area and a Joint Information Center – all fully staffed and functional for the exercise. The agency participated in multiple planning and training sessions, two practice drills and the FEMA evaluated exercise took place on October 28, 2014. There were over 1000 local responders trained and evaluated during this exercise. The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department was recognized as having ‘best practices’ by FEMA evaluators during the after-action review. This continues the health departments long standing exceptional performances during FEMA evaluated drills. The next drill of this kind will not take place until 2022. In 2015, the county will continue with its normal cycle of drills and exercises in support of the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant.



The Director of our Preparedness Program attended a week long training session at the Center for Domestic

Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama focusing on Pandemic Influenza and Hands on Training for terrorist events. The Pandemic Influenza training was three day of classroom and exercise experience for public health and other responders. The Hands On Training (HOT) was the following two day of training and exercises preparing students to respond to biological, chemical and radiological events. Training consisted of classroom and hands on training in the field. Students learned how to identify chemical, biological and radioactive substances using a variety of tests and devices as well as appropriate Personal Protective Equipment similar to that of a fire fighter. We donned (put on) and doffed (took off) the equipment in a clean environment to keep ourselves safe from contaminants. It was a week of intensive training that is provided free of charge to responder agencies such as local public health.

In addition to training, exercise and planning for the Emergency Preparedness Program our health department was engaged in a NACCHO accreditation program for Emergency Preparedness called Project Public Health Ready (PPHR). PPHR consisted of approximately 180 evidence based criterion that evaluated the 'health' or 'readiness' of our health department for emergencies of all kinds. After eighteen months of preparing for PPHR, the application was submitted for review in August of 2014. Look for an update to this program in next years' Annual Report.

The program continues to update plans, policies and procedures per state and federal guidelines of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant. During 2014, updated plans were submitted to the Office of



Public Health Preparedness at the Michigan Department of Community Health. Partnerships with groups such as Van Buren and Cass County Local Emergency Planning Teams, schools, hospitals and other community programs continue to be a great benefit to the Health Department. The Emergency Preparedness Program continues to be an influential partner across the State of Michigan as it successfully completes all requirements of the Office of Public Health Preparedness.



Public Health Nursing services

Public Health Nursing is focused on the prevention and control of disease; assessment of individual, family and community health needs; education; referral and coordination with other community service providers. Nursing staff work in the community and in agency clinics. Specific programs include:

Communicable Disease Control:

Michigan law requires that all suspect and confirmed cases of communicable disease be reported to the local health department by all area health providers, laboratories, and school and daycare centers. Additionally, reports are received from the community. Agency staff is trained in disease investigation; treatment, case management, and contact follow up and operate under protocols established by the Michigan Department of Community Health according to Michigan Law. Staff work to educate the public about the dangers of communicable diseases and how to protect themselves, their families and the community. Services are provided to individuals in agency clinics and to others within the community.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic Services:

STD clinical services and quality community education is essential to prevent sexually transmitted diseases from being spread. The program provides treatment and follow up of sex partners of persons with STD's to prevent further transmission of diseases. Individual and group education is provided in

schools and at various community sites and communication is ongoing with local medical providers to assure appropriate treatment standards are upheld.

STD Clinic Visits – 461

HIV education (group) School & community – 137

HIV education to individuals – 1929

HIV counseling & testing of individuals – 571

Children's Special Health Care Services Program - (CSHCS)



This program is provided in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Community Health and the federal government under Title V of the Social Security Act. The CSHCS program mission is “to enable individuals with special health care needs to have improved health outcomes and an enhanced quality of life.” The staff of this program help families’ access specialty health care services that are “family centered, community based, coordinated and culturally competent.”

CSHCS serves people under 21 years of age (and people over 21 for cystic fibrosis and hemophilia) who have one of the over 2,600 medically qualifying conditions. The program helps pay for medical care, transportation, copays and deductibles and helps to keep private insurance. The program is free to most families but based on income, some families may pay a monthly fee to participate.

Local Health Department responsibilities include:

- Maintain trained staff who will carry out the program according to State designated policies and procedures
- Promote and publicize the program to the public with outreach and case findings explaining program benefits and services
- Assist families as needed with application, obtaining medical records, finding specialty care and making needed referrals
- Provide care coordination and case management

Children receiving CSHCS services in 2014: 476



Immunization Program

Local immunization efforts serve to protect the public from epidemics or threatened epidemics of vaccine preventable diseases as well as protecting individuals from avoidable diseases and their complications. The local immunization program is based upon State immunization program guidelines and monitored for its' effectiveness, compliance with State program guidelines and adherence to professional standards of practice as detailed by the Standards for Child and Adolescent Immunization and the Standards for Adult Immunization Practices. The local program must maintain highly trained staff to:

- Conduct immunization clinics for residents to dispense publically funded vaccines according to program qualifications
- Educate staff of local schools to assure they understand school immunization requirements and accurately report to MDCH and the Department of Education about the immunization status of their students
- Provide site visits for quality assurance and compliance with federal requirements of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program entitlement in health department clinics and local medical providers offices

- Monitor for fraud and abuse of publically funded vaccine
- Assure accessibility to vaccines, improve local immunization rates, provide immunization education for local medical providers and the public, and develop private and public partnerships to promote immunization rates within the community

2014 Program Statistics:

- Health Department Immunization Clinic Visits: 700
- Vaccines administered by at Health Department clinics: 2535
- Children 19-35 months of age in Van Buren and Cass County fully immunized and entered into the State Immunization Registry: 79%
- Vaccines for Children (VFC) Medical Providers having received an annual AFIX Quality Improvement Site Visit: 1005
- District School Children immunization compliancy rate: 96%
- District Childcare Center Immunization Compliancy rate: 96%
- District School Immunization Waiver Rate: 3%

Childhood Vision and Hearing Screening program

Michigan's childhood vision and hearing screening program has been serving children and families for over 60 years. Statewide over 1.1 million children are screened annually and over 87,000 children are referred for follow up care. Children are screened for both vision and hearing once before entering kindergarten and then vision is screened in grades 1,3,5,7, and in conjunction with driver's education or in 9th grade. Hearing is screened every other year through 6th grade. These

screenings are FREE of charge and offered in collaboration with Michigan schools and preschools including public, private, parochial, and charter schools. Children not in a formal program can be screened at the local health department by appointment.

Health Department technicians provide objective hearing and vision screenings using State approved protocols and equipment. Parents of children who fail the screenings are notified so they can seek medical intervention, diagnosis, and treatment and recommendations for care. Vision and hearing technicians complete and pass a comprehensive four week educational training with practicum, are evaluated on a regular basis to ensure compliance with program policies and protocols and must attend continuing education workshops. All training and evaluation is provided by audiologists and vision specialists at the Michigan Department of Community Health.

2014 Screenings done:

Vision – 11,336

Hearing -- 6192



Information Technology Services

Servicers: The information technology group is committed to improving all systems throughout Van Buren/Cass District Health Department. We consolidated our Dowagiac and Cassopolis office locations into a new Dowagiac facility. Moved telephone system using the latest in technology to Voice over IP, reducing the overall cost of communication. Also making a unified seamless communication from office to office. Added new Substance Abuse Video Conferencing system in Harford for patient screening purposes. We continue to modify, upgrade, and create reports for the Insight application, which serves our Substance Abuse and Public Health Services, including Immunization, STD, Vision and Hearing, and Children's Special Health Care.

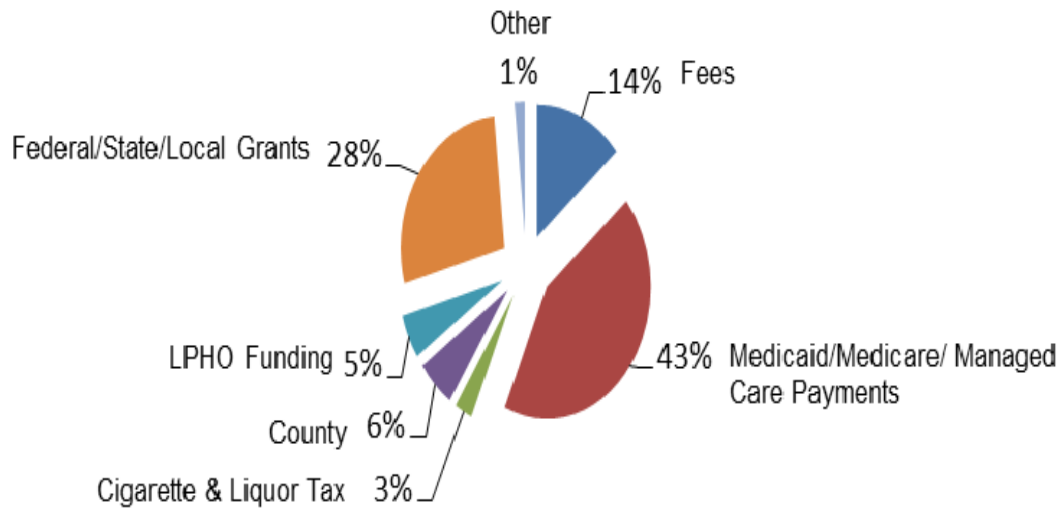
Security: We strive to maintain a high level of security to ensure the integrity of our data. Our laptops are encrypted, workstations and servers have firewalls turned on, and policies are set to enforce the locking of workstations and automatic logoff. The latest version antivirus software is installed, and we enforce Microsoft updates. Workstation and laptop users do not have administrator rights, and our wireless passwords are not given out to users. We have added additional encryption to allow sensitive Public Health Information through e-mail.

Website: An online payment option has been completed for our Environmental Health Department and Dental services. We redesigned our website to provide a more attractive and friendlier interface for the public. Our employee intranet portal (where employees can access policies, training, etc.) has been revamped to provide security, ease of administration, and website editing.



FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET

Revenues: \$7,828,595.10



Expenditures: \$7,828,595.10

