This report highlights services and major accomplishments of Washington County Department of Health and Human Services and its community partners during the 2012-13 fiscal year.

This year marks 25 years since the Department of Health and Human Services was first formed. On July 1, 1988, the Public Health Department, Mental Health Department and the Juvenile Services Commission merged into a single, unified Department of Health and Human Services.

First envisioned in the County 2000 Strategic Plan, the department formed to improve coordination of health and human services, increase public knowledge and community support through improved communication, and strengthen local efforts to provide needed services to county residents. Since 1988, Animal Services, Jail Health, Emergency Medical Services, and Disability, Aging and Veteran Services have also been incorporated into the department.

Much has changed in Washington County during the past 25 years. In 1988, the county had a population of approximately 300,000 people compared to today's 547,672. The combined department's first annual budget was set at $10,746,330; today it is $94,594,815.

A few of the primary issues of concern in 1988 were HIV/AIDS prevention and education, creating community treatment and support options as alternatives to institutional care for persons with mental and physical disabilities, and expanding treatment and prevention projects to address our society’s pervasive drug abuse problem.

While we are still working on some of those very same issues today, several others have emerged. Public health emergency preparedness, providing more comprehensive services to persons with mental illness or developmental disabilities, meeting the service needs of a rapidly growing senior segment of our population, obesity and tobacco prevention, and reducing the spiraling costs of health care have all become significant challenges over the years.

John F. Kennedy once said, “Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.” While it is important to take an occasional look in the rearview mirror, we continue to be as future-focused as we were in 1988 in our efforts to meet the needs of Washington County citizens.

As always, we appreciate the many contributions and support from department and agency staff members, council and board members, and the many volunteers throughout the county. We are always happy to hear from you — please feel free to contact us with questions or comments.

Rod Branyan  
Director
**Public Health**

The mission of Washington County Public Health is to improve and protect the public’s health across the lifespan through prevention, education, partnerships and healthy environments.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) focuses on nutritional education and support for low-income pregnant women and families with young children. In 2012:

- WIC served 32% of all pregnant women in Washington County.
- WIC served 19,312 individuals (8,685 families).
- 95% of WIC mothers started out breastfeeding.
- Participants spent $7,490,237 in federally funded vouchers on healthful foods at local retailers.
- Participants spent $147,128 in farmers’ market coupons paid to local farmers.

Field team nurses made 6,772 home visits to 1,196 pregnant and post-partum women and their newborns, infants and toddlers with special healthcare needs.

Working with Clackamas and Columbia counties, public health emergency preparedness staff developed *Preparing Together – A Discussion Guide and Toolkit*, a simple but thorough resource for families, neighbors and other groups to use to prepare for a disaster or emergency. Copies are available for public use through Washington County Cooperative Library Services as well as online.

Several new mannequins were added to the Washington County mobile training unit, including a newborn, child and a birthing mother. This year, trainers conducted 125 sessions for paramedic students, fire departments, local hospitals, private ambulance companies and even a Girl Scout troop. The vehicle debuted in 2012 and is a collaboration among Washington County Emergency Medical Services, Portland Community College, Oregon Health & Science University, Oregon Institute of Technology and Pacific University.

In May, public health was a key player in a three-day full-scale exercise that tested the region’s ability to respond effectively to a major disaster.

The 11th Annual Public Health Recognition Awards were presented to Tigard Turns the Tide and Michelle Rodriguez of Helping Empower Youth Together (HEY!). Both honorees work to prevent alcohol and drug use among youth.

The Pacific Region FDA recognized Community Health Nursing Supervisor Trevor Hostetler, Environmental Health Specialist Alisa Bruno, Environmental Health Licensing Supervisor Frank Brown, and Epidemiologist Kim Repp for their “superior collaborative (scombroid) investigation to identify and remove a wealth of hazardous seafood products from the marketplace.”
A grant from Futures Without Violence allows staff to receive specialized training and implement screenings for intimate partner violence, including assessing for sexual and reproductive coercion. Public health is partnering closely with the Domestic Violence Resource Center during this three-year grant.

**Human Services**

Human Services includes mental health, developmental disabilities and addictions.

On average, there are 65 deaths by suicide each year in Washington County. Though Washington County has slightly lower rates of suicide than Oregon overall, it is higher than average among those ages 25-44.

In 2012-13, Washington County created a suicide prevention coordinator position to lead efforts in expanding suicide prevention beyond schools and into the broader community. In May, Washington County hosted the Summit of Hope, a community suicide awareness event that culminated in the formation of a Suicide Prevention Council. Suicide is preventable, and the council’s vision is a community without suicide. The council’s goals and strategies are aligned with the National Alliance for Suicide Prevention’s National Suicide Prevention Strategy published in 2012.

Since 2011, Washington County has been providing Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), a best practices program for suicide first aid to prevent suicidal behavior. This year, 135 individuals attended the trainings. ASIST is one component of a comprehensive strategy of training aimed at youth suicide prevention. The program is in place at the majority of Washington County high schools.

Washington County has played a significant role in a three-county healthcare transformation effort led by Health Share of Oregon. The goals of this effort have included creating system efficiencies through standardizing behavioral health business practices across the region; developing standardized payment methods and rate structures; and encouraging best practices and models of care that support the integration of physical, mental and dental health.

The Developmental Disabilities program had a comprehensive state review in January (occurs once every five years) and scored a 93 (out of a possible 100) for services provided to individuals and families; documentation, policies and procedures; and overall program management.

Developmental Disabilities has been a leader in the Employment First Initiative, which emphasizes the goal of integrated employment for individuals with developmental disabilities. Washington County’s Employment First group is used as a model statewide for integrating services among multiple agencies that serve young adults with developmental disabilities.

**Solid Waste & Recycling**

The Solid Waste and Recycling program provides regulatory oversight, education and outreach services related to the collection, storage and disposal of garbage and recycling in unincorporated Washington County.
Washington County’s Recycle at Work Award recognizes local businesses for their excellence in recycling, waste prevention and environmental purchasing. Examples include using integrated faxing and scanning applications to scan, send and receive documents without the use of paper; reusing materials and packaging; operating in a LEED-certified facility; replacing disposable foodservice ware with durable options; and adopting formal policies encouraging sustainable practices.

This year, the Recycle at Work Award was given to DianaPlantSciences, Eid Passport, Finnegan’s Village Toys, Fujimi Corp, Genentech and Raptor Ridge Winery.

Animal Services

Washington County Animal Services, located at the Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter in Hillsboro, cares for lost animals, finds homes for abandoned pets, licenses dogs, enforces animal cruelty laws and protects citizens from dangerous animals.

The Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter took in 1,928 dogs, 1,908 cats and 53 other creatures, including rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs, parakeets and even a pig.

The shelter’s first priority is to return animals to their owners; 1,287 animals (1,164 dogs, 119 cats and four other animals) were returned to their worried owners. The shelter’s return-to-owner rate for dogs was more than 60 percent; the national shelter average is about 25 percent.

New homes were found for 1,089 animals (370 dogs, 709 cats and 10 others). Another 877 animals were transferred to other trusted adoption programs.

A full-time veterinarian was hired. This was the first year the shelter had a complete program of daily veterinary care for all the animals. The veterinarian performed amputations, eye removal, thyroid surgery and other procedures that allowed animals with painful or life-threatening conditions to become pain-free and adoptable. Many animals were saved.

The Animal Protection Multi-Disciplinary Team won the Cameron Award for the best community collaboration in Washington County. In the previous year, more than 20 cases of animal abuse and neglect were prosecuted — with a 100 percent conviction rate. During the past two years, more than 300 nights of safe housing were provided to pets from domestic violence situations at the Bonnie Hays shelter.
Disability, Aging and Veteran Services

Disability, Aging and Veteran Services (DAVS) was designated by the Oregon Department of Health and Human Services, State Unit on Aging as a fully functioning Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC). People who call or visit an ADRC receive accurate, unbiased information on issues related to aging or living with a physical disability. It is funded by DHS and the local Area Agencies on Aging through federal grants.

DAVS, in partnership with Washington County Facilities and Parks, City of Hillsboro and the Washington County Veterans Memorial Project, developed and built the Veterans Memorial Gateway in conjunction with Veterans Drive just south of the fair complex to honor all Washington County veterans. The first phase of the project was completed in December 2010. This partnership applied for and received a $35,250 Oregon State Parks Veterans and War Memorial grant to enhance the site.

DHS and the Oregon Home Care Commission awarded DAVS the STEPS program, which helps promote successful working relationships between consumer-employers and homecare workers. STEPS is a program for seniors and people with physical disabilities whose in-home services are provided through state programs.

Washington County’s Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter and other shelters in the Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland (ASAP) coalition received a total of $1 million from Maddie’s Fund, recognizing that no healthy animal has been euthanized in the Portland metro area in more than two years. Portland is declared the safest metropolitan area of more than two million people for pets. Washington County is the safest county in America’s safest large community.

Commission on Children & Families

A school-based health center opened at Century High School in Hillsboro in March. The center provides high quality and comprehensive prevention services, developmental screenings, sports physicals, well-child check-ups, dental care, urgent care and mental health counseling.

Department-Wide News of Note

In February 2013, HHS hopped aboard the social media train and created a Facebook page as a way to engage with the community. Several divisions and programs within HHS also have their own Facebook pages and Twitter accounts.

Each month, Community Matters is recorded at TVCTV in Beaverton. The show hit the airwaves in October 2012 and features a variety of topics and guests, with the goal of keeping Washington County residents safe, healthy and well-informed. All episodes are available on YouTube via links on the county’s website at www.co.washington.or.us/hhs.
1988 Public Health Department, Mental Health Department and Juvenile Services Commission merge into a single unified Department of Health and Human Services.

1990 Construction of Washington County Public Services Building is completed. All HHS operations and administration are centralized.

1991 Solid Waste & Recycling becomes a departmental program with full-time staff.

1993 Washington County Commission on Children and Families is established.

1994 The mascot Elliot the Elephant is created to encourage kids to get their shots. Elliot became a national sensation, appearing in more than 40 states.

1995 Dammach State Hospital, a mental hospital in Wilsonville, closes.

1996 Washington County experiences a “100-year flood” in February.

1997 Washington County EMS establishes an exclusive franchise with Metro West Ambulance for 911 ambulance service.

2000 Fairview Training Center closes. More than 1,300 people with developmental disabilities return to community living.

2001 The September 11 terrorist attacks cause a re-evaluation of the nation’s emergency preparedness, food security and water security systems.

2002 The smokefree workplace law is implemented. It is expanded in 2009 to includes bars, bowling alleys and bingo halls.

2003 Mosquito control program is launched in response to West Nile Virus detection in the United States.

Washington County Mental Health becomes an Oregon Health Plan Mental Health Organization administering mental health benefits.

Public health emergency preparedness program is created and funded by the CDC in the aftermath of the anthrax attacks and 9/11.

2004 Animal Services and the Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter are transferred from the Department of Assessment and Taxation to the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Washington County Drug Court program opens.

2005 The Department of Disability, Aging and Veteran Services merges into the Department of Health and Human Services as the DAVS division.

The mobile crisis team is created to respond to mental health crises 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

2007 Washington County Public Health joins Multnomah and Clackamas counties in forming the regional health officer program.

2009 Communicable disease program successfully manages the first influenza pandemic (H1N1) in more than 30 years.

2012 Animal Services hires its first full-time veterinarian to provide comprehensive medical care in addition to spay/neuter surgeries.
Our Partners in Service to the Community

HHS contracts or has strategic partnerships with these organizations for the provision of services to county residents.

Abilities at Work
Active for Life
Adams & Gray
Adelante Mujeres
Albertina Kerr Centers
Alternative Services – Oregon
Asian Health and Service Center
Banks School District
Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce Police Activities League
Beaverton School District
Beaverton Together
Bethesda Lutheran Communities
Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest
Boys and Girls Aid Society of Oregon CareOregon
CASA for Children
Cascade AIDS Project
Cat Adoption Team
Catholic Community Services
Change Point
City of Beaverton
City of Hillsboro, Parks & Recreation
CODA
ColumbiaCare Services
Comfort Keepers
Community Action Organization
Community Services, Inc.
Community Vision
Corizon Health
Danforth and Associates
Danville Services of Oregon
Daytime Enrichment Activities and Recreation
DePaul Industries
DePaul Treatment Centers
Domestic Violence Resource Center
Dove Lewis Emergency Animal Hospital
Dual Diagnosis Anonymous of Oregon
Dungarvin Oregon
Edwards Center
Exceed Enterprises
Forest Grove School District
Full Life
Gaston School District
Goodwill Industries
Harmony Housing
Haven House Treatment Center
Helping Empower Youth Together (HEY!)
Hildah Highbe
Hillsboro School District
Home Instead Senior Care
HomePlate Youth Services
Howard Stables
ImaginePossibilities
Impact NW
Independence Northwest
LifeWorks Northwest
Luke-Dorf
Lutheran Community Services Northwest
McCann’s King City Pharmacy
Meals on Wheels People
Mentor Oregon
METRO
Metro West Ambulance
Misty Mountain Family Enrichment Center
Morrison Child & Family Services
Mountain Retreat Secured Transport
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)
Neighborhood Health Center
Northwest Regional Education Service District
OHSU Intercultural Psychiatric Program
Oregon Child Development Coalition
Oregon Family Support Network
Oregon Home Care Commission
Oregon Humane Society
Oregon Law Center
Oregon Lithoprint
Pacific University
Performance Health Technology
Port City Development
Project Access Now
Providence Health System
Public Partnerships
Q Center
Rebuilding Together
Renew Consulting
Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Retirement Connection
Ride Connection
Rock Creek Veterinary Hospital
Self Determination Resources
Sequoia Mental Health Services
Sherwood School District
St. Mary’s Home for Boys
Tigard-Tualatin School District
Tigard Turns the Tide
TNT Fiscal Intermediary Services
Treatment Services Northwest
Trillium Family Services
TriMet
Tualatin Together
Tualatin Valley Workshop
Tuality Health Care
Tuality Medical Equipment
Veterans Administration Medical Center
Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center
Washington County Consumer Council/Drop-In Center
Western Psychological and Counseling Services
Westside Community Focus
Worksystems, Inc.
Youth Contact
Youth Move Oregon
Youth Villages
Budget for Fiscal Year 2012–2013
$94,594,815

Revenue by Source

- Federal Funds: $26,411,537 (28%)
- County General Funds: $12,986,918 (14%)
- State Funds: $31,270,714 (32%)
- Beer & Wine Tax: $490,332 (1%)
- Fees, Miscellaneous: $23,435,314 (25%)

Program Allocations

- Mental Health: $45,249,721 (47%)
- Medical Examiner: $544,522 (1%)
- Veteran Services: $704,821 (1%)
- Emergency Medical Services: $1,843,203 (2%)
- Solid Waste & Recycling: $1,329,573 (1%)
- Environmental Health: $1,945,097 (2%)
- Animal Services: $2,746,989 (3%)
- Aging Services: $3,407,195 (4%)
- Jail Health: $4,704,033 (5%)
- Developmental Disabilities: $6,482,117 (7%)
- Chemical Dependency, Alcohol & Drug: $6,518,431 (7%)
- Child & Family Services: $7,400,845 (8%)
- Community Health: $11,718,268 (12%)

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