



Erie County Health Department
An Accredited Public Health Department

Erie County Community Health Center
A Federally Qualified Health Center

Peter T. Schade, MPH, REHS
Health Commissioner



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leading with Heart and Science: The Women Shaping Erie County's Public Health

SANDUSKY, OH, January 26, 2027 — In the ever-evolving landscape of public health, the Erie County Health Department (ECHD) is navigating the future with a leadership team defined by experience, clinical precision, and a shared vision. At the helm of this mission is a group of dedicated women who are transforming how the county approaches everything from primary care to crisis intervention.

A Foundation of Clinical Excellence

The agency's clinical operations are anchored by three seasoned nursing professionals. Heather Westcott, RN, serves as the Senior Chief Clinical Officer. With nearly 15 years of public health experience, Westcott oversees the broad integration of services that keep the community healthy. Working alongside her is Nicole Ziegler, RN, Chief Clinical Officer, who brings over eight years of frontline and administrative expertise to the clinical team.

Expanding the reach of nursing care is Andrea Caudill, RN, BCLC, CLC, CLS. As the Director of Public Health Nursing, Caudill also oversees WIC services for both Erie and Huron Counties. Her specialized certifications in lactation and maternal health ensure that the youngest members of the community and their families have a healthy start. Supporting the department's holistic approach to wellness is Stephanie Salyer, RN, Chief Behavioral Health Officer. Salyer uses her 10 years of experience to lead the agency's critical mental health and recovery initiatives.

The Science and Strategy Behind the Mission

Public health is driven by data and supported by a strong internal foundation. Taylor Kula, MPH, EHSIT, the agency's Epidemiologist, has spent the last five years tracking disease patterns and environmental health risks to keep the public safe.

Internally, the agency's growth is managed by Kari Swenson, HR Supervisor. With twenty-five years in management and five years of experience in public health, Swenson ensures that the department is staffed by the highest caliber of professionals dedicated to the county's mission. Rounding out the leadership team is Kristina Knight, the Director of Marketing & Public Relations, who uses her twenty-five years of experience in communications and marketing to serve as the vital link between complex health data and Erie County residents.

Health Commissioner Peter T. Schade notes that the strength of the department lies in the caliber of its leaders. "The expertise and dedication these women bring to our agency are unmatched. Their leadership isn't just about managing departments; it's about saving lives and building a



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resilient infrastructure for every resident of Erie County. We're fortunate to have this level of clinical and strategic talent guiding our mission."

Together, these leaders represent the modern face of public health—one that is as compassionate as it is clinical. The agency's expectation is that any young person in the community interested in a career in science, medicine, or community service can look to the Erie County Health Department as a gold-standard example of what a career in this field can achieve. For students or professionals interested in exploring public health careers, shadowing opportunities, or internships, the health department encourages you to reach out and connect with our team to help shape the next generation of local healthcare leaders.

About the Erie County Health Department

The Erie County Health Department's mission is to promote and improve the health and safety of the communities and environment within Erie County while preventing disease through essential public health services. The Erie County Community Health Center is part of the Erie County Health Department and operates eight convenient locations across Erie, Huron, and Ottawa counties, ensuring accessible primary care, dental, and behavioral health services throughout the region.

For more information about Health Department or Health Center services, visit www.ErieCoHealthOhio.com.

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