



Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE
Commissioner of Health

Health Department Administration

Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 North Broadway, 3rd Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3653 phone (414) 286-3521 fax (414) 286-5990
web site: www.milwaukee.gov/health

For Immediate Release
April 4, 2011

Media Contact: Kwanza Newson
414-286-3548 Office
414-732-7250 Mobile

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

City of Milwaukee Health Department Honors Sixteenth Street Community Health Center for Excellence in Public Health

Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker launched the annual National Public Health Week campaign by recognizing Sixteenth Street Community Health Center's Department of Environmental Health for their outstanding contributions toward protecting and improving the health of residents.

"Congratulations to Sixteenth Street Community Health Center on a job well done," said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker. "We know that strategic partnerships help further our impact in the community, and our relationship with the Department of Environmental Health has enabled us to reduce lead exposure in additional homes on Milwaukee's south side."

The Commissioner's Community Award of Excellence recognizes the City of Milwaukee Health Department's (MHD) community partner who made the most outstanding contribution to public health in Milwaukee in 2010. MHD employees nominate programs or events with community partners that have strengthened public health capacity through their collaboration with the MHD.

The nominations were judged by a four-member review committee comprised of one representative each from the following areas:

- City of Milwaukee Health Department
- Mayor's Office
- Common Council Office
- Health Advocacy Group

"We started our lead project more than 15 years ago, with the idea that preventing a child from becoming lead poisoned in the first place, was a much smarter and cost effective approach than trying to treat them after the fact," said John Bartkowski, President and Chief Executive Officer at Sixteenth Street. "We wanted to not only protect children from irreversible brain and nervous system damage, but to make a positive difference in the public health delivery system in Milwaukee."

"Since the project began, our three-way collaboration with the families in the community, our Environmental Health Department's Outreach Program and the City of Milwaukee Health Department has helped to bring about a reduction in lead poisoning on the south side from nearly 40% of children under age six to less than 4%," he said.

The award was announced as a part of the city's National Public Health Week activities. The week celebrates advancements in public health, and brings awareness to issues that will help improve the health of the nation.

This year's theme, Safety is No Accident: Live Injury-Free, encourages prevention to stop injuries and violence before they happen.

For more information about the City of Milwaukee Health Department, go to www.milwaukee.gov/health or to learn about the National Public Health Week, go to www.nphw.org.