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BY ALAN HODGE

A recent review of the

Department by Tallahassee,

Florida-based MGT of America

revealed something local people

Presented at a recent meeting

of the Cleveland County Board

performance review was an in-

depth analysis of the Health

Department's financing, clien-

tele, operations, personnel, and

logistics. The report was based

in part on comparison between

Department and health depart-

Catawba, Iredell, Nash, Rowan,

the Cleveland County Health

ments in six "peer" counties.

The selected counties were

Rockingham, and Union. The

February, March, and April of

The gist of the MGT review

provides a comprehensive array

of public health services to the

residents of Cleveland County.

Our review found CCHD to be

well managed and communica-

tion between employees and

supervisors to be satisfactory."

The report also stated that

employee morale at CCHD was

very high, though some work-

The relationship between

CCHD and its clients was also

examined and found to be ex-

cellent. Clients interviewed in-

dicated they were satisfied with

their interactions with employ-

ees and the quality of service

they received. Though clients

said they did not find the loca-

problematic, some did say they

were less than satisfied about

the amount of time they spent

Other results from the MGT

study stated that CCHD was es-

pecially commendable in sever-

tion and experience, identifying

health needs, their school-based

health program, prenatal care

services, and office procedures

which streamlined billing and

Financing for CCHD re-

ceived a thorough going over

by MGT. Some of their findings

were that the CCHD Fiscal Year

crease of \$38,690 over the previ-

Budget of \$6,695,756 was a de-

increased revenues.

al areas including staff dedica-

an addressing community

tion and hours of operation

ers expressed concern over

reported that "the Cleveland

County Health Department

study was done during

this year.

salaries.

of Commissioners, the MGT

have known for years- the folks

at the Health Department are

Cleveland County Health

Staff Writer

top drawer.

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address, and phone number. IT'S FAST - IT'S EASY (704) 739-0611

Jason Schneider, son of Kevin and Dawn Schneider, prayed every day that his sunflower would grow. It did - eight feet tall. Jason is a kindergartner at Bethware Elementary. Health Department gets good review ous year. The CCHD budget has, however, increased by about \$1 million over the past five years. Of this year's bud-

get, 38.4 percent comes from county funds, 25.3 percent from Medicaid/Medicare, 14.5 percent from state funds/grants, and 11.8 percent from other As the MGT statistics prove,

CCHD serves a lot of folks. Services range from immunizations to an eye clinic. Just a few of the other services offered by CCHD include hypertension screening, pap smears, breast exams, diabetic clinic, glaucoma screening, counseling, and tuberculosis care. In FY 1998-99, CCHD provided 178,092 ser-

In comparing the level of personal health services offered in Cleveland County as opposed to the six peer counties, it was found CCHD offered a more comprehensive array of clinic services than most of the others. Criteria included sick child services, dental clinics, school based clinics, home health agency, jail health and pharmacy services. Of these, CCHD offered all except home health

In the area of environmental health, landfill, and animal control services, CCHD ranked at the top of the six peer counties in sewage and water program services and landfill tonnage.

County staffing and expenditure levels for public health again saw CCHD do well. Of the six peer counties, Cleveland spent \$73.86 on public health per capita. In comparison, Rowan County spent \$27.70 and Nash topped out at \$83.40. The staff to population ratio for Cleveland County was listed as 1:560. Nash County has a ratio of 1:492, and Rowan came in at

Of its commendations, MGT was especially complimentary of CCHD employee dedication and experience. Of the 162 CCHD employees, 45 had worked there 10 years or more. Turnover rate after retirees was just 4.95 percent. Turnover rate among Cleveland County employees as a whole is 8.55 percent. The MGT review also stated that CCHD employees often emphasized their belief that the public health services they provided made a real difference in the community.

Also noted in the review was the fact that CCHD employees were well trained, worked together harmoniously, and had high morale.

Completing its report, MGT made a list of 21 recommendations for improvement within CCHD. Ideas for improvements focused on upgrades in the department's computer systems. parking and building facilities, and communications equip-

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