We wanted to expand the public health experience of our residents. We had a community pediatrics block rotation in place, and wanted to include more exposure to public health in that rotation.

**Pediatric Public Health Curriculum 2010-2011**

We recognized the importance of public health in pediatrics. We also realized that our residents might not recognize how public health policies impact the health of the patients that they see. It was our hope to bridge the gap between how the residents perceive public health and how it impacts the care that they deliver to their patients.

**Objectives**

We chose the following goals on which to focus:

1. Understand the various types of prevention programs and their differences
2. Understand the pediatrician’s role and interactions with the public health system
3. Understand the usual public health units in a large public health department
4. Understand the role that national, state and local programs and policies have in regard to health promotion and prevention in our clinic population

**Activities**

The residents will spend 2-3 half-day sessions per week at the public health department in different units learning about epidemiology, health policy and how physicians interact with the health department. Some sessions will be didactic, others will be hands-on sessions in different departments, attending meetings and participating in health promotion activities sponsored by the health department.

**Faculty**

Lynn C. Smitherman, MD, General Pediatrics
A Barbara Oettgen, MD, General Pediatrics

**Other Public Health Resources**

Wayne County Health Department

**Lessons Learned**

The main challenge was the development of a service agreement between our institution (Graduate Medical Education (GME) and the legal department) and the county health department. At this time, we are still waiting for both sides to sign the agreement. Otherwise, the personnel at the health department who will be interacting with the residents have been engaged and looking forward to working with them. The health department personnel was very engaged in assisting us with
developing goals and objectives for the residents during their time at the health department.

This information was provided courtesy of Children’s Hospital of Michigan – one of the participants in the Pediatric Public Health Curriculum Implementation Project. Site Directors: Lynn C. Smitherman, MD, A. Barbara Oettgen, MD