

2001 “Friend of Public Health Award” Recipient

Robert Dolsen

List of Public Health Accomplishments and Collaborations

- **Member of Community Health Task Force Formed in 1993**
(precursor to Healthy Berrien 2000 and Healthy Berrien Consortium)
- **Community Health Task Force Became Healthy Berrien 2000 in July, 1993.** Bob selected as first chair demonstrating the following qualities:
 - High level of commitment towards improving the health of Berrien County residents
 - Broad perspective of a variety of health problems and issues
 - Excellent knowledge of Berrien County health providers, services, and agencies
 - Excellent knowledge of Berrien County population and socioeconomic characteristics
 - Ability to use objectivity at all times when addressing Berrien County health problems and solutions
 - Excellent leadership and communication skills
- **Healthy Berrien 2000 Accomplishments Under Bob’s Leadership**
 - Produced Berrien County’s first comprehensive Health Status Report in 1994
 - Conducted Berrien County’s first Behavioral Risk Factor Survey in 1994 to identify the prevalence of behaviors that are known to contribute to morbidity (sickness) and mortality (deaths) in the Berrien County community
 - Chaired the 1995 Community Assessment Kick-off meeting at Lake Michigan College (LMC): a public presentation to Berrien County Community leaders to increase awareness of local health statistics, establish priorities, and motivate individuals and agencies to action
 - Formation of Task Forces in 1995: Groups of volunteers from local agencies and the community-at-large dedicated to the addressment of the health priority areas selected during the kick-off... Cancer; Heart Disease/Stroke; Infant Mortality/Low Birth Weight.
- **Healthy Berrien Consortium Formed in 1998 with Bob Continuing as Chairperson.** The Healthy Berrien Consortium is a network of key health care organizations and leaders formed to jointly undertake improving the health and well being of Berrien County residents. Although each member’s organization currently performs this function, the Consortium is an enterprise that allows these organizations’ leaders to jointly assess,

address, and assure community health endeavors that may be beyond the resources of any one agency.

- **Healthy Berrien Consortium Accomplishments under Bob's Leadership:**

- Quality of Life Index: A web-based report of the status of community and health indicators for Berrien County. First released in November, 1999, the Index is intended as an introduction to community health status for Berrien County and to engage community leaders, decision makers, and the public at large in a process to improve the overall quality of life in Berrien County. The Index has become a call to action to increase quality and years of healthy life, promote healthy behaviors, eliminate health disparities, prevent and reduce diseases and disorders, and ultimately promote healthy communities.
- Analysis of health issues in Berrien County (200 and 2001): The Healthy Berrien Consortium has embarked upon a process to analyze and prioritize health issues in Berrien County. Strategies will be recommended to health care providers and the community at large to improve health status.
- Upton Health Symposiums: Bob has presided over two (2) Healthy Berrien Consortium health conferences provide in cooperation with U.S. Congressman Fred Upton's office. The first was entitled "Aging in America" held at LMC in November of 1999. The second entitled "Telehealth... Connecting Health Care to the Future", was provided in April, 2001 at LMC.