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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**United States Secretary of Agriculture names KCHD's Christopher Bendekgey to Advisory Council**

**GRAND RAPIDS** – The United States Secretary of Agriculture, Thomas Vilsack recently appointed the Kent County Health Department's Director of Community Clinical Services Christopher Bendekgey to serve with the National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant and Fetal Nutrition.

Bendekgey will be one of 24 members of the council who, according to the letter of appointment, will play "an important role by making a continuing study of the operation of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) and programs serving similar populations such as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) to determine how they may be improved."

"Serving on the council gives me an opportunity to contribute at a national level in an area of public health that I have always been passionate about," says Bendekgey. "The council's recommendations on improving the program will be taken under advisement by the Secretary as he advises Congress, and ultimately, the President."

"During the nine years that Christopher has been with the Kent County Health Department, he has advocated so successfully for our clients that he has been instrumental in building the Kent County's WIC program into one of the best in the state," said Adam London, Administrative Health Officer of the Kent County Health Department. "His appointment to this council is just another example of the passion that Chris and so many of our dedicated staff displays every day."

Bendekgey was nominated to the position by Stan Bien, the director of the WIC program for The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, who is familiar with Bendekgey's work and reputation in the field.

"There is certainly a feeling of accomplishment. This is an opportunity to affect change at the highest level," says Bendekgey. "The people who I work with are the ones most familiar with the successes and challenges of the programs administered by the USDA, so this gives me an opportunity to be their voice as well as continue my advocacy for the client."

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**KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).**

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