

MEMO

EL PASO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Office of Administration

To: Board of Health

From: Kandi Buckland, RN, MPA
Deputy Public Health Administrator

Date: January 9, 2008

Re: Director's Report

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems.

- Two hundred eighty-nine inspections, re-inspections, and field consultations were conducted on General Retail Food Establishments including restaurants, grocery-deli, mobile units, and temporary event vendors, and on swimming pools and spas, institutions, and body art establishments; 55 plan reviews, service evaluations, equipment reviews, and pre-opening inspections on new facilities were conducted prior to licensing and approval; and 3 temporary events were monitored for compliance with the Colorado Retail Food Establishment Rules and Regulations.

2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.

- For the month of December, 47 communicable disease cases were reported. Cases of campylobacteriosis, giardiasis, Haemophilus influenzae, pertussis, salmonellosis, and shigellosis were investigated.
- During the month of December, there were no influenza-associated pediatric deaths or influenza-associated outbreaks reported in El Paso County. There were six influenza-associated hospitalizations reported during this time period in El Paso County (5 adults, 1 child); all cases tested positive for influenza A.
- EPCDHE Communicable Disease investigated three outbreaks in December: one gastrointestinal illness outbreak at a local long term care facility (suspected agent norovirus); and two pertussis outbreaks, one in a private school and one involving 3 separate households.
- No new confirmed active TB cases were reported in December. TB staff conducted DOT (Direct Observed Therapy) on 3 active or suspect active cases during December.
- The Food and Living Environment Program participated in the recall of a product called "SWAD. SINDOOR," an orange or red powder used in some traditional Middle Eastern ceremonies that is applied to the face or scalp. Although Sindoor is never supposed to be used in food, some individuals may use it as food coloring.

3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.

- Basic Food Safety and Managers training using food safety principles was provided to 25 food service operators, owners, and food handlers.
- Body Artists Training focusing on blood-borne pathogens training and local regulatory requirements was provided to 25 local owners, operators and body artists.
- HCP's new PHN arranged to speak at staff meetings at 2 home care agencies that serve our families: Nursing Therapies Services of Southern Colorado on December 3 and Interim on December 4.
- SAFE:TEEN provided suicide prevention training for students at Liberty High School and Parent Night School, reaching 138 students. Five students were referred to school counselors for additional assistance.
- SAFE:TEEN provided suicide prevention training for the Rainbow Girls, reaching 9 students, 6 parents, and 2 agency staff members. Three students were referred to receive additional counseling.
- Breast and Cervical Cancer Program staff taught women's health seminar for 25 women at ComCor.
- TEPP staff trained 12 people to become "You Can Quit" smoking cessation facilitators, including 8 EPCDHE staff members. Participants were also educated about the dangers of secondhand smoke.
- TEPP staff and/or volunteers provided 20 youth smoking prevention presentations, reaching 345 students.

- **TV News Media**

The Office of Communication has implemented a measurement tool that captures and places a market value on TV news coverage. Media value dollar figures reflect equivalent costs for 30-second spot advertising during the respective newscasts and times. Multiple newscasts/times are noted, when applicable, and included in value totals. ***Net earned media values from the beginning of January 2007 thru the end of December 2007: \$327,791**

- *12.28.07—KOAA Channels 5/30 News (6 and 10 PM). Referenced a local public think-tank group that is advocating for additional funding to the El Paso County Health Department for the purpose of better managing restaurant inspections to prevent food-borne illness. Value: \$1,100
 - *12.13.07—KKTU Channel 11 News (morning programs, noon and 4:30 PM). Aired a story regarding a Merck pharmaceutical recall of select lots of PedvaxHIB and COMVAX vaccines, and potential impact on local vaccination clinics—including the EPCDHE's Vaccine For Children (VFC) program. The Office of Communication provided information regarding EPCDHE's supply of the recalled vaccine—confirming that none of the recalled stock numbers were administered through the VFC program. Value: \$700
 - *12.01.07—KRDO Channel 13 News (morning programs). Follow-up report on first confirmed flu case in El Paso County and prompted viewers to get a flu shot. Also mentioned most vulnerable populations—including young children and the elderly. Report prompted by media advisory issued Nov. 29. Value: \$225
- **KKTU "Health Department Tuesday" News Segments**
Weekly, live on-camera interview public health segments (two minutes) aired during the 4:30-5:00 p.m. newscast on KKTU Channel 11 News. Approximate viewing audience is 17,000; estimated cost value per segment is \$400. Interviews coordinated through the Office of Communication during the month of December 2007 include:
 - *12.25.07—Canceled due to holiday.

- *12.18.07—Protect Children with Toy Safety Tips, interview provided by Alison Nagel, M.S.W., Injury Prevention Specialist.
 - *12.11.07—Give the Gift of Healthy Holiday Traditions, interview provided by Shirley K. Lippincott, Registered Dietitian, WIC Program.
 - *12.04.07—Enjoy wood fires safely—for your family AND for air quality, interview provided by Mike McCarthy, Air and Water Quality Control Program Director.
 - **Print News Media**
 - *12.28.07—*The Colorado Springs Business Journal* Health Quarterly, "Make this New Year a flu-free year." Column provided by Rosemary Bakes-Martin, M.S., M.P.H., Public Health Administrator.
 - *12.28.07—*The Colorado Springs Business Journal* Health Quarterly, "Community--Staph infections rise in state, nation." Interview provided by Bernadette Albanese, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director.
 - *12.21.07—*The Colorado Springs Business Journal*, "CEG working to provide sustainable solutions for community challenges." Information supplied by the Office of Communication.
 - *12.21.07—*The Colorado Springs Business Journal*, December 21, 2007: "FRESC offers consulting alternative for nonprofits." Interview provided by Kandi Buckland, R.N., M.P.H., Deputy Director.
 - *12.15.07—*The New Falcon Herald*, Germs: Wash Your Hands." Column provided by Rosemary Bakes-Martin, M.S., M.P.H., Public Health Administrator.
 - *12.05.07—*The Gazette*, "Outbreak sickens 27 at nursing home." Information supplied by Office of Communication.
 - *12.01.07—*The New Falcon Herald*, "El Paso County residents receive free flu shots." Story provided by the Office of Communication.
 - *12.01.07—*MD News* magazine, COVER STORY, "Public Health: End of the Road or a New Beginning?" This was a 2,000 word, plus graphics, center spread story about our Health Department and funding needs. Interviews provided by Rosemary Bakes-Martin, M.S., M.P.H., Public Health Administrator, and Bernadette Albanese, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director, along with data from various programs facilitated by the Office of Communication.
 - **Radio Coverage**
 - *12.18.07—740 AM Radio KVOR, coverage related to a national report that El Paso County scores 9 out of 10 on emergency preparedness. Interview provided by Mike Wagner, Emergency Preparedness Program Manager.
- *The prior media coverage is "earned," which means it's free (non-paid spots) other than staff time taken to prepare and provide information.

4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.

- On December 13, members of the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) team met with members of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to coordinate efforts for the upcoming grant cycle. By both groups working together along with area hospitals, many deliverables for each agency's scope of work will be met and existing bonds will be strengthened.
- A member of the EPR team was the Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8, Public Health and Medical, representative at the county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for the Schriever Air Force Base Weapon's of Mass Destruction exercise on December 6.
- Mike McCarthy of the Water Quality Program and Danielle Hannaly-Gentle of the Air Quality Program participated in a City of Colorado Springs Utilities-sponsored panel discussion presented to CSU employees and contractors in the local area. Permitting requirements for air and water at

the local level were our responsibility, but representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Building (Flood Plain), and CDPHE Stormwater were also part of the panel to discuss their requirements. There were approximately 50 participants asking various permitting requirement questions. This is the second year of our participation in this panel discussion.

- The FICMR program held a case review on December 13 for Unintentional Injury deaths. One case was reviewed, and multiple community stakeholders were present. Recommendations were developed and forwarded to the Community Action Team.
- The Injury and Violence Prevention Program partnered with Colorado Springs Assets for Youth to recruit 15 agencies to participate in a project with 23 teens who have been selected to participate on a Youth Advisory Council as part of the ESCAPE grant.
- TEPP staff participated on tobacco-free taskforces at both Memorial and Penrose hospitals and provided educational materials and signs to support their smoke-free campus initiatives.

5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.

- The NFP expansion is now fully staffed with the hire of three new nurses and 1 nurse transferring from the Immunization Clinic. All four nurses began working with the program in December.

6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.

- On December 20, the Water Quality Team was notified of a sanitary sewer overflow associated with a wastewater service line of the Fountain Valley School that eventually connects to Widefield Water and Sanitation District's mainline. Three manholes on this private service line were involved in the spill (2 on EPC property, 1 on Fountain Valley School property). McGregor Reservoir on the north side of Fontaine Blvd. was contaminated, as well as an area in Widefield Park on the south side of Fontaine Blvd. The clean-up was immediately started not only by our department, but also the Fountain Valley School, EPC Parks Department, and EPC Environmental Services through media releases advising the public of the health risks associated with possible exposure to raw sewage, taping off affected areas, applying hydrated lime to kill pathogens and reduce odors, and by posting warning signs. Final clean-up plans are being complicated by frozen effluent in the lake and wetland and wildlife sensitive areas that may be contaminated. This complicated final clean-up plan that must comply with multi-jurisdictional regulations is currently being put together to finish the clean-up. Several thousand gallons is the best estimate of the volume of sewage associated with the spill.
- New business processes developed for yellow fever vaccine. This change is being implemented due to the unavailability of single dose vials of yellow fever vaccine.
- Due to decreased supply of Hib vaccine, the 12 to 15 month dose has been suspended until the supply is increased. EPCDHE Immunization Clinic is keeping a list of children who were deferred so they can be recalled when the supply becomes healthy.

7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.

- Enrolled 63 women in WWC; about 61% of WWC enrollees are returning clients. Enrolled 15 women in CMP for screening and diagnostic services. Of the 60 women calling in on the Hotline to be screened for enrollment, 12 had not had an exam in >5 years. One breast cancer was identified this month.

8. Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.

- PERSONNEL ACTIVITY:**

Comings:

Program	Name	Position
NFP	Asheley Epperson	PHN
EHS	Peter Alexander	Environmentalist
FICMR	Kathleen Orr	FICMR Coordinator
NFP	Linda Frasier	PHN
NFP	Judy Kibby	PHN

Transfers/Promotions: Activity:

Program	Name	Position
WIC	Brittany O'Rourke	Assistant Director
WIC	Lisa McLain	Part Time Supervisor
STD	Maria Clark	Disease Intervention Assist
NFP	Jodean Mooneyham	PHN
Finance	Dianne Hurtado	Purchasing Contract Administrator

Goings:

Program	Name	Position
FICMR	Terry Laura	FICMR Coordinator
DACPP	Michael Plunkett**	Program Director
DACPP	James Saunders	Staff Counselor

** Indicates employees who have retired.

Employee Count (Payroll 12/31/07)

Total Employees Paid: 221

Tuition Reimbursement

Budgeted: \$35,000	Reimbursed: \$27,112.80	Remaining: \$7887.20
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- VACANCY REPORT:**

Program	Title	# FTE	Status
FICMR	Coordinator	1	Filled
NFP	PHN	4	Filled 4 of 4
WIC	Nutrition Services Supervisor	1	Interviewing
Vital Records	Program Assistant	1	Screening – Externally
Finance	Payroll Specialist	1	Interviewing-Internal
Finance	Purchasing Contract Administrator	1	Filled-Internal

NFP	Office Manager	.5	Filled-Internal
IZ/Travel	PHN	1	Filled Internal
Operations	Receptionist	1	Interviewing
Clinical Services	Admin Assist	1	Filled - Internal

- **VOLUNTEER SERVICES:**

Number Programs Utilizing Volunteers	9
Total Number of Active Volunteers**	10
Total Volunteer Hours	111.5
Estimated worth of volunteer hours (calculated @ \$14.30)*	\$1594.45

**Our local Volunteer Center and the Independent Sector recommend this figure. Volunteer Coordinator is researching the increased estimated worth of volunteer hours.*

***This figure does not include all of TEPP, Safe Kids and Immunization Forum coalition members.*

9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.

The Women's Clinic successfully completed a Family Planning CDPHE Medical Site Audit on December 17, 2007. Our auditor, Christine Mandl, observed client flow processes and nurse practitioner and support staff interaction with clients and reviewed charts for completeness and correctness of data entry. The audit encompassed appropriate and updated policy and procedures, licensure and certifications of staff.

10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.