

**EL PASO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Office of Administration**

**To:** Board of Health

**From:** Kandi Buckland, RN, MPA  
Executive Director

**Date:** February 22, 2010

**Re:** Director's Report

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**1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems.**

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

- In January 2010, 26 communicable disease cases were reported and investigated: campylobacter (1), cryptosporidiosis (1), giardia (1), haemophilus influenza (1), chronic hepatitis B (2), influenza-related hospitalizations (2), invasive pneumococcal disease (3), pertussis (2), Salmonella (3), shigella (1), STEC – shiga toxin-producing W. coli (1), typhoid fever – foreign acquired (1), varicella (6) and viral meningitis (1). Between August 30, 2009 and January 31, 2010, there have been 186 influenza-related hospitalizations, presumed to be due to H1N1 even if specific influenza typing was not completed.
- Note: Change in Flu Case Reporting – From August 30, 2009 through January 9, 2010 all hospitalized influenza cases with any positive influenza test, including rapid antigen tests, were counted as confirmed cases. Due to low levels of influenza activity and the concern of false positive results from rapid antigen tests, as of January 10, 2010, influenza-associated hospitalizations will be counted as cases only if they are positive by PCR, viral culture or DFA.
- CD Program staff investigated 2 gastrointestinal illness outbreaks in January, both in long term care facilities.
- Also in January, the Communicable Disease Program received 4 possible food-borne illness complaints.
- TB Program staff investigated 1 new suspect active TB case and conducted Direct Observed Therapy (DOT) on 5 active or suspect active TB cases in January.

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

- Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) staff provided 200 Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act (CCIAA) reference cards to be distributed to all officers who respond to CCIAA complaints and also to the dispatch employees. Information will be distributed across both enforcement agencies, e.g. Colorado Springs Police Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Office.
- Strong and Health Families Element I, training component started on 01.04.2010. As of 01.27.2010 there are 9 clients enrolled in the training.
- Effective 02.01.2010 a maximum of 12 clients per week will be referred to the SHF program to enroll in Element I.

- Sixteen Strong and Healthy clients are receiving services via Element II, the home visitation component of the program.
- As of 01.27.2010 the Strong and Health Family program has received 32 referrals; total number of open cases: 16 (9 enrolled in class); total number of pending cases: 9; total number of closed cases: 7.
- Child Health Staff facilitated the 6<sup>th</sup> Child Health Liaison (CHL) Course. The topic was “Oral Health.”
- Child Health Staff mentored participants in the CHL course. The mentoring session focused on health and safety quality improvements in the child care facility and the Personal Care Routine observation.
- Child Health Staff presented Universal Precautions to Family Child Care Home Providers and Pre-Licensing training attendees.
- WIC caseload was 14240 clients during the month of December 2009.
- Jill Law, Division Director of Health Services will be the Interim WIC Program Manager. Applications are being accepted. An interim planning meeting was held with State WIC and local division directors to assure a smooth transmission.
- WIC staff received notification of the interim plan and meetings have been scheduled to assure continuity of operations within the local department during the transmission phase.
- The Clinical Services department served 871 men and women for the month of January.
- 37 women were served as Wise for Life patients. One women required immediate referral to outside provider for diabetes level blood screen findings. 20 were screened as overweight or obese and 12 reported smoking. All receive RN case management counseling, information and referrals to encourage cardiovascular risk reduction. The goal is to see a reduction of risk factors at the 10-14 month return visit.
- Clinical Services Program Manage met with Director of a Christian home based shelter for women “Liza Place”, to share health resources available for her clients provided by the health dept. The home provides a safe environment and a 6 month program for the women to learn job skills and to reconnect with services available in the community.
- Wise for Life information was shared with a local church targeting women ages 40-64 without health insurance.

### **Office of Communication Efforts Related to H1N1**

#### **The Office of Communication:**

- Continued updating Ronald McDonald Care Mobile clinics flyers, posted on Web site and shared with partner agencies and solicited their help in sharing the flyers with their stakeholders.
- Updated [www.immunizecolorado.com](http://www.immunizecolorado.com) several times with new flu clinic information, so the public has access to the many flu clinic options in El Paso County.
- Facilitated speaker for High Noon Club (Rachel H. Jervis, M.P.H., communicable disease epidemiologist) on Jan. 19. Goal of presentation was to explain how seasonal and H1N1 flu are similar/different and provide preventions steps for both. Reviewed presentation, provided handouts. Audience was 30-35 senior citizens.
- Facilitated planning for a speaker (Anissa Bingman, M.S., communicable disease epidemiologist) for Past Matrons and Patrons, scheduled Feb. 2. Goal of presentation is to explain how seasonal and H1N1 flu are similar/different and provide preventions steps for both. Audience expected to be 30-35 senior citizens.

- Drafted and posted new main Web site message to emphasize key messages associated with National Flu Immunization Week, including, “it’s not too late to be vaccinated,” “H1N1 flu can be as serious illness” and “the vaccine supply is ample.” Goal remains to reach as many as possible with H1N1 flu vaccine.
- Distributed Colorado Springs Health Partners H1N1 flu clinic information to 211/Colorado Help Line and promoted to media

**News Releases:**

- 01.27.10—H1N1 Flu Mobile Vaccination Clinic Changes Hours
- 01.21.10—It’s Not Too Late to Get Your Free H1N1 Flu Vaccination

**T.V. 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. There are other stories, as well as coverage and video on local news media outlets’ Web sites that are not included in this news media value report.

- 01.11.10—KOAA Channel 5, 6 p.m., H1N1 flu vaccination clinic continues at The Citadel. Estimated value: \$500
- 01.06.10—KKTV Channel 11 News, noon, vaccination effort at USOC complex, presence of the U.S. Surgeon General, mention of the Health Department as holding the clinic. Estimated value: \$363
- 01.05.10—KKTV Channel 11 News, noon, 4 and 5:30 p.m., vaccination effort at USOC complex, presence of the U.S. Surgeon General, mention of the Health Department as holding the clinic. Estimated value: \$1,416
- 01.04.10—KRDO Channel 13 News, noon, 5 and 10 p.m., HVAC and related issues at the Health Department, Interview provided by Kandi Buckland, R.N., M.P.A., executive director. Estimated value: \$1,841
- 01.01.10—KOAA Channel 5, 6 and 6:59 a.m., Health Department building will get emergency repairs. Estimated value: \$360
- Participated in an event held at the United States Olympic Training Center to promote the importance of H1N1 vaccination. While no specific mentions of the Health Department’s name were made in these news features, and no dollar value was assigned in the Office of Communication’s news media earned value report, these publicity opportunities helped communicate the importance of H1N1 flu vaccination.

**TV News Coverage of the H1N1 Flu Vaccination Effort at the USOC Complex:**

- 01.06.10—KOAA Channel 5 News, 5 and 6 a.m.
- 01.06.10—KXRM Fox 21 News, 6 and 8 a.m.
- 01.06.10—KKTV Channel 11 news, 9 a.m.
- 01.05.10—KOAA Channel 5 News, 5 and 10 p.m.
- 01.05.10—KRDO Channel 13 News, 5 and 6 a.m., noon and 5 p.m.
- 01.05.10—KXRM Fox 21 News, 6, 7 and 8 a.m.
- 01.05.10—KKTV Channel 11 News, 5, 6 and 9 a.m.
- 01.04.10—KOAA Channel 5 News, 5 and 6 a.m.

<b>Office of Communication</b>			
<b>T.V. News Media Earned Value 2010 Report</b>			
<b>Month</b>	<b>TV Features</b>	<b>Media Values</b>	<b>Comments</b> (2007=\$377,776=650 features) (2008=\$152,785=510 features) (2009=\$132,698=404 feature)
January	10	\$4,480	
<b>Year-To-Date Totals</b>	<b>10</b>		Year-To-Date Earned Media Value: \$4,480

\*The above media coverage is “earned,” which means it’s free (non-paid spots) other than staff time taken to prepare and provide information.

**Print News Media:**

- 01.15.10—“Colorado Springs Business Journal” Health Department: Thanks for Help with H1N1. Column thanking the community for its H1N1 flu response by Kandi Buckland, R.N., M.P.A., executive director. Included portrait. “The Business Journal” is the definitive business publication in the region, reaching 5,000 subscribers.
- 01.15.10—“The Cheyenne Edition” and “The Woodmen Edition,” PAGE ONE, Spread of H1N1 Dwindles, but Need Remains for Community Vaccinations. Interview provided by Kandi Buckland, R.N., M.P.A., executive director. The Editions reach 24,000 households/businesses weekly in the northern and southwestern sections of Colorado Springs.
- 01.09.10—“The Gazette,” editorial page, with photo, Thanks to the Community for its Response to Control H1N1 flu. Column by Kandi Buckland, R.N., M.P.A., executive director. “The Gazette” reaches about 100,000 households/businesses in the Pikes Peak region.

**Print News Media Coverage and Blog Related to Health Department Involvement in H1N1 Flu Vaccination Clinic at USOC Complex:**

- 01.06.10—“The Gazette,” Swine Flu Still Threat, Surgeon General Says. Mention of the Health Department’s clinics in the community.
- 01.05.10—“The Gazette,” Vaccinations Fit for a General at the USOC. Interview provided by Kandi Buckland, R.N., M.P.A., executive director. Photographed during preparations at the USOC building was Jill Law, R.N., B.S.N., Health Services division director.
- 01.05.10—The U.S. White House Blog, Teaming up with Olympians to Fight H1N1, blog item and photo of several Health Department staff members doing vaccinations, posted by U.S. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin. The blog can be accessed at: [www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/01/05/teaming-with-olympians-fight-h1n1](http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/01/05/teaming-with-olympians-fight-h1n1). The photo presented is of Alana Podratz, public health nurse with the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment.

**December 2009 Documentation Not Included in January Report:**

- 12.29.10—“The Tribune,” H1N1 Shots Available Jan. 4 in Monument. Information supplied by the Office of Communication. “The Tribune” reaches about 9,500 homes/businesses in the Monument, Tri-Lakes, Black Forest and nearby areas.
- 12.25.10—“Colorado Springs Business Journal,” Health Quarterly section: Top 10 Tips for a Healthier 2010, column by Kandi Buckland, R.N., M.P.A., executive director.

**Web Site Stories:**

- 01.25.10—“Hispania News” Web site, It's not too late to get your free H1N1 flu vaccination. Information supplied by the Office of Communication.

- 01.11.10—“Hispania News” Web site, promotion of the Health Department’s H1N1 vaccination clinic at The Citadel.

<b><u>www.elpasocountyhealth.org</u></b>	
<b>Web site (unique) Visits 2009-2010</b>	
Numbers do not include employees who visit Web site while at work, we track external visits only. These are estimations.	
<b>Month</b>	<b>Unique Visits</b>
<b>January 2010</b>	<b>7,096</b>
December 2009	8,212
November 2009	13,655
October 2009	12,300
September 2009	7,926
August 2009	6,148

**Communication Support:**

- Submitted column, thanking community for H1N1 flu response, to “Mountain Shadows Connections” neighborhood newsletter by Kandi Buckland to appear March 15. This newsletter circulates to about 400 households.
- Submitted column about Wise for Life to “New Falcon Herald” by Kandi Buckland to appear Feb. 6. “New Falcon Herald” reaches about 5,000 homes/businesses.

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

- On January 13, 2010 the second meeting of the Faith/Health Connection Community Resource Council (CRC) was held. The council will provide sustainability for the church health programs after the grant ends. The Community Resource Council is comprised of: Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church, Peoples United Methodist Church, Solid Rock Family Life Center, Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Latino American Health Network Pikes Peak Mental Health, Pikes Peak United Way 2-1-1, and Silver Key Senior Services.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response staff, along with others within the Health Department continue to move Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) antiviral assets into the community as requested.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinators met with Teller County Public Health, along with El Paso County Medical Reserve Corp to discuss Teller County’s Medical Reserve Corp.
- The wrap up for the H1N1 Military/Hospital Liaison meeting occurred this month due to the decrease in H1N1 activity. This meeting will reconvene if H1N1 activity increases.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator and Program Manager participated in the Pikes Peak Metropolitan Medical Response System’s (MMRS) Steering Committee Meeting. During this meeting the following items were voted on: MMRS Strategic Plan, MMRS Governance Guidelines, MMRS Meeting Schedule and location, 800 MHz radios.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Program Manager participated in the Emergency Management (EM) Committee meeting. The City of Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management is the lead

for this committee. The purpose of the EM Committee is to continue to update and improve the Emergency Operations Plan as well as address citywide preparedness issues such as mutual aid agreements, catastrophic planning, mass evacuation, National Incident Management System implementation and other areas identified in the National Response Framework. The Committee is comprised of departmental representatives who attend on a quarterly basis. The first meeting was held on January 21.

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Program Manager participated in the Cities Readiness Initiative meeting. Discussion was held about the following items: H1N1 Experiences, Point Of Dispensing Standards, the upcoming CRI Assessment/LTAR, Medical Surge Exercises, which is a Centers for Disease Control deliverable, and the sustainability of North Central Region-Public Health and/or Cities Readiness Initiative group. There were also regional committee reports.
- The FICMR program held case reviews for Premature/Natural deaths on January 14, 2010. Thirteen community stakeholders attended review of Premature/Natural deaths. Recommendations were developed and forwarded to the Community Action Team.

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

- Emergency Preparedness and Response staff have been meeting with our regional partners to assist them in the application process with the goal of submitting their Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) application for technical review to Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment by March 1.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinators are on the planning team for the South Central Region and MMRS' NOAAs Ark exercises. The table top exercise will be held February 4, the functional exercise will be held March 16, with the full-scale exercise to follow.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Program Manager participated in the Catastrophic Planning Kick-Off Meeting. This project will last about one year. The City of Colorado Springs is the lead. The contractors will help to develop check lists of what needs to be accomplished in different catastrophes.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator and Program Assistant attended the Health Alert Network (HAN) conference call. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is transitioning HAN to the Situational Awareness Tool (SATool) site. There will be training in May and HAN on SATool will go live in early summer. Both systems will run parallel for a time. The completion date is scheduled for August.
- Immunization clinic workload in Vaccine Control tapered off this month because we filled most orders from local providers. In addition, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment assumed responsibility for ordering vaccine for El Paso County providers requesting H1N1 vaccine via an online system.
- EPCDHE, the Visiting Nurse Association and the Citadel continue to participate in a joint venture offering free H1N1 vaccine to anyone over age 6 months of age.
- EPCDHE and Peak Vista's Care Mobile continue to participate in providing free H1N1 vaccine to targeted locations within El Paso County on Monday's

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

- In December the environmental health specialists completed 327 Retail Food Establishment (RFE) routine inspections, 37 RFE follow-up inspections, 7 RFE plan reviews, 9 RFE change of ownership evaluations, 23 RFE field visits, 6 RFE complaint inspections, 16 RFE pre-opening inspections, participated in 2 new food recalls, completed 1 onsite Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Point (HACCP) evaluation, 18 OWS final inspections, 25 OWS site inspections, 1 OWS

complaint, 1 pumper truck inspection, completed 4 body art establishment field visits, 2 body art establishment pre-opening inspections, and 1 routine body art establishment inspection.

- The Laboratory performed 668 private well water tests in January. Tests are paid for by individual property owners.

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

- Women's Wellness Connection (WWC) case managed 15 new clients, did medical screening on 13 additional clients and did referrals on 33 phone calls. The total of new clients case managed was 28, and additionally 33 referrals were made through phone calls.
- Year-to-date (contract year), we have enrolled 464 women in the Women's Wellness Connection for a total of 753 breast and cervical screens being paid.
- International Travel Clinic staff accommodated 6 members of local surgical cadre on a short-notice, no-appointment basis for counseling and vaccinations for relief efforts in Haiti. Due to an impending Monday departure, other team members were linked to immunizations through local pharmacies.

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

- Michelle Martinez continues to provide "Standardization Training" as required by CDPHE to our staff. She completed the 8 trainings for 2 more staff members during January. All inspectors are required to be standardized in the proper application of the retail food establishment regulations every 3 years.
- Five EH staff members attended the Colorado Professionals in Onsite Wastewater (CPOW) Annual Conference in Denver. CPOW is an organization that is comprised professional engineers, OWS installers, septic tank pumpers, OWS component suppliers, and state and local health department regulators. The main focus this year was centered upon the current effort already underway to revise the CDPHE, OWS Guidelines and the goal of having OWS's installed more for water quality protection purposes, than being installed prescriptive and based on anticipated wastewater flow rates as they are now.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinators and Program Manager attended the Operational Response to Mass Casualty Incidents Workshop which was sponsored by Pikes Peak Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS). This workshop was held in an effort to bring emergency response agencies within the Pikes Peak MMRS region (El Paso, Lake, Teller, Pueblo, Fremont, Park and Chaffee counties) together to improve operational response to all-hazards multiple casualties incidents. The workshop was lead by Dr. Mauricio Lynn, a renowned expert in the emergency preparedness and response to mass casualty incidents all over the world. Dr. Lynn's presentation provided emergency responders and planners with the latest information learned from disasters and terrorism in Israel as well as other countries. In addition to this two-day workshop, Dr. Lynn assisted in reviewing current mass casualty incident plans that were provided by agencies throughout the Pikes Peak MMRS region on a third day. An Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator participated in this review.
- Children with Special Needs Staff attended an all day "Care Coordination and Documentation: conference in Pueblo offered by the HCP State Staff. This is in preparation for the online database that will begin in the spring of 2010.
- The El Paso County Dept. of Health and Environment laboratory, certified by the State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to perform microbiological examination of public drinking waters, must meet certain quality assurance requirements. The laboratory

undergoes on-site audits every other year and performs quality assurance manual updates and unknown sample analysis (proficiency testing) annually. The laboratory technologists recently completed a video training course produced by Idexx Industries, a leading manufacturer of water testing products. The course demonstrated the use of low count bacterial culture sets in quality control testing and working reagent performance evaluation standards. The laboratory now incorporates this procedure as a significant improvement to its overall quality assurance program.

**Personnel Activity**

Comings:

Program	Position
Nurse Family Partnership	Public Health Nurse
Health Promotion	Grant Coordinator
Finance	Chief Financial Officer
Women, Infants and Children	Registered Dietician

Goings:

Program	Position
Public Information Office	Temporary Communication Specialist
Immunization/Travel Clinic	Program Assistant

Employee Count (Payroll 1/29/10)

Total Employees Paid: 174

Tuition Reimbursement 12/31/09

Budgeted: \$25,000	Reimbursed: \$7,242	Remaining: \$17,758
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Vacancy Report

Program	Title	# FTE	Status
IT	Senior Systems Administrator	1	Interviewing
Women Infants and Children	Nutrition Services Educator	2	Interviewing
Maternal Child Health	Public Health Nurse/Child Care Facilities Inspector	1	Interviewing
Women Infants and Children	Registered Dietitian Supervisor	1	Interviewing
Women Infants and Children	Program Manager	1	Screening
Immunization/Travel Clinic	Program Assistant	1	Interviewing
Immunization/Travel Clinic	Public Health Nurse	1	Interviewing

Volunteer Services: 1/29/10

Number of Requests for Information	8
Number of Interviews Conducted	8
Number Programs Utilizing Volunteers	7
Total Number of Active Volunteers**	5
Total Volunteer Hours	227
Estimated worth of volunteer hours (calculated @ \$18.77)*	<b>\$4260.79</b>

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

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator traveled to Florida to join a team of national reviewers to review Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) applications from various states. She will continue to be involved with this team.

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

- Kelley Vivian, the new Grants Coordinator, started on 01.05.2010. She spent January meeting with Program Mangers, helping to submit the third-year, competitive grant application for Wise for Life (grant to CDPHE for \$301,913), and researching alternative funding sources for health department programs.