To:        Board of Health

From:     Jill Law, R.N., M.H.A.
          Interim Public Health Director

Date:     July, 2012 (Reflects June 2012)

Re:       Director’s Report

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**Acronyms**

- EPCPH – El Paso County Public Health
- CDPHE – Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

**Accreditation**—*Kathy Rice, Office of Planning, Partnerships, and Accreditation, Director*

- El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) was notified that we have been chosen to present, “Using Colorado’s Health Assessment and Planning System (CHAPS) Effectively: The El Paso County Experience,” at the 2012 Public Health in the Rockies Conference which will be held this September in Pueblo, Colorado.
- EPCPH is conducting a Customer Satisfaction Survey starting June 25, 2012 to August 17, 2012. The results of the survey will be compiled into a report.

**Disease Prevention and Control**—*Shannon Rowe, M.P.H., Communicable Disease Program Manager*

Communicable Disease (CD) - reflects CD investigative activities in June 2012

- Reportable infectious diseases:
  - 45 communicable disease cases were reported and investigated: Campylobacter (3), Giardia (7), hepatitis A (1), acute hepatitis B (1), chronic hepatitis B (5), invasive pneumococcal disease (4), pertussis (8), Salmonella (3), viral meningitis (6), and varicella (7).
  - Possible foodborne illness complaints: 6.
  - Outbreaks: 1 GI/norovirus – in a homeless shelter.
    - CD staff is working closely with the facility involved to conduct investigations and implement control measures aimed at reducing spread of illness.
  - CD Program responded to 35 calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals (an expected increase with the arrival of warmer weather). From the animals involved in those inquiries, 23 animals (14 bats, 3 raccoons, 6 skunks) were tested for rabies because there were either human or pet animal exposures; all test results were negative.
    - As of the end of June, no animals have tested positive for rabies in 2012 in El Paso County.
    - Two persons were recommended rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) due to exposures to potentially rabid animals (and one additional was added for May).
  - Tuberculosis (TB) Program staff investigated 1 new suspect active TB case in June.
  - TB Program also conducted Direct Observed Therapy (DOT) for 5 active or suspect active TB cases, and conducted Direct Observed Preventive Therapy (DOPT) for 1 contact of an active case.
  - Seventy-five tuberculin skin tests were placed at El Paso County Public Health in June.
Emergency Preparedness and Response—Lisa Powell, M.P.S., Program Manager

- Emergency Preparedness & Response staff hosted the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Strategic National Stockpile Mobile Preparedness Course in June. This course was a huge success, with many compliments from our state and local partners as well as CDC. We trained 35 staff from our region on the steps for receiving, staging and distribution of strategic national stockpile assets.
- Emergency Preparedness & Response program manager attended the Terrorism Liaison Officer annual Conference.
- Emergency Preparedness & Response staff had their annual Local Technical Assistance Review. This is a review conducted by state health and CDC of plans that will be used for Points of Distribution and the Strategic National Stockpile. Standards are evaluated and a score will be calculated on levels of readiness. The score will be available in July or August. Initial feedback is positive.
- June 23-July 4th—Emergency Preparedness Staff responded to the Waldo Canyon Fire. Some activities include liaison to the emergency operations centers at both the City and the County, assisting in evacuations of long-term care and nursing facilities, support to shelters, activation of the Medical Reserve Corps and use of the drive-thru point of dispensing plan to assist with re-entry to the burn area for residents. (More discussion to follow in the future).

Environmental Health (EH)—Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Division Director

- Environmental Health Specialists inspected 365 retail food establishments (RFE). 2,086 RFE’s have received a 2012 food safety inspection.
- On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Program Team:
  - Conducted 31 final inspections, 18 site inspections, 8 field visits, and 8 pumper truck inspections.
- Pool/Spa Program Team:
  - Conducted 14 regular inspections, 2 follow-up inspections, and investigated 1 complaint.
- Waldo Canyon Fire response activities included:
  - Assisted approximately 80 Retail Food Establishments in the evacuated areas (Ute Pass, Mt. Shadows, Garden of The Gods, Rockrimmon, and Peregrine) with spoiled food disposal associated with power outages, smoke/soot clean-up questions, and re-opening their establishments to the public.
  - Division Director assisted Emergency Services Function 8 at the Colorado Springs Emergency Operation Center to develop a sanitation plan for spoiled food at the Mountain Shadows area.
  - Staffing at the Disaster Recovery Center; answered numerous questions regarding smoke damage in homes and businesses, provided education on how to deal with spoiled food products from power outages, and the need for personal protection for ash/debris site clean-ups associated with damaged and destroyed houses, and provided handouts on a multitude of environmental topics associated with wildfires and the recovery process.
  - Assisting mass shelters set-up for evacuees with food safety and sanitation guidance.

Health Services—Jill Law, R.N., M.H.A., Division Director

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)

- Vacant PHN positions: 3.0
- Program Updates:
  - Article featuring a success story of a former client who graduated from the NFP program was published in the Gazette and Pikes Peak Parent Magazine.

Maternal Child Health (MCH)

- This month was spent writing work plans and budgets for FY 13 which will begin in October. The Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) is restructuring MCH programs across the State. The new state and local action plans will highlight evidence-based strategies coordinated between the state and local level, that are intended to impact the MCH state and national performance measures
over the next three to five years. To this end, Rebecca Heck, our generalist consultant from CDPHE conducted a site visit on May 10 to help determine our future directions. We also meet with Eileen Bennett, the State ABCD (Assuring Better Child Health and Development) Coordinator to discuss future work in this area. About half of our Title V MCH block grant will be used for the Health Care Program for Children with Special Health Care Needs for Care Coordination. The other half will fund our Child/Adolescent population in two new programs, Early Childhood Obesity Prevention and Medical Home/Developmental Screening.

- The final Child Health Liaison (CHL) class was conducted on May 12. Each student was required to do an improvement project in their own child care facility and then present their project to the rest of the group. Additionally, the Child Health Nurse did a presentation on self care for the child care providers. Child Health Nurses conducted 23 individual mentoring sessions during the month of May. There were 24 child care facility inspections done in May with 8 of those being CCCAP centers. One of the Child Health Nurses has transferred to another Health Department program as the CHL program ends.

- Health Care Program for Children with Special Health Care Needs (HCP) Program Manager attended the Policy Advisory Committee meeting at CDPHE on May 24. Many decisions have been made concerning future directions of the HCP program for FY13. The regional office structure will change so Teller County will no longer receive support from El Paso County. Each local health department will be able to opt-in or out of the Colorado Response to Children with Special Health Care Needs (CRC) program and EPCPH along with most of the other large counties will opt-out. Previously, HCP funded and operated a system of specialty clinics across the state which will continue but be reduced in size. There was much discussion about data and documentation in the State/HCP computer system called CYSHCN. New reports showing care coordination case loads are being developed.

- Our current care coordination in HCP caseload is 89. The HCP Nurse is providing care coordination services for families by working with many community partners, including the Department of Human Services in the Wrap-Around, the New Parents Support Program at Ft. Carson and the Early Intervention Program through The Resource Exchange. She presented HCP information and our referral system to a group of therapists and early intervention workers at The Resource Exchange.

- Colorado Immunization Program/Child Care Inspection Standards: The Registered Nurse with the help of the Office of Communication created an educational flyer for child care providers which has been distributed among child care providers, at a bi-monthly meeting of home child care providers, and the Pikes Peak Flu and Immunization Coalition.

Strong and Health Families (SHF)

- Program received 13 referrals from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) case managers. 11 new referrals enrolled in class; 7 clients previously enrolled continued to attend class; 18 clients attended class on a regular basis; 2 clients completed the 8 training modules.

WIC

- Caseload for the month of May 2012 was 15,475. This caseload is at an ideal number for each Educator to manage their caseload with quality work.

- Approximately 95% of all clients that were scheduled for an appointment one of the three days that we were closed due to the Waldo Canyon fire have been in contact with WIC in one way or another and have been issued their benefits that they would have received at during their appointment.

- EPCPH has done a great job with utilizing WIC employees so that WIC can continue with their services for clients and be able to assist with staffing the Disaster Recovery Center. Mainly, WIC Program Assistants are helping during the week and other employees on the weekends.

Clinical Services

- Program manager presented information about a life reproductive plan and preventing sexual infections to young women from a group home.
• Family Planning Advisory Committee from Clinical Services met and discussed the referral process to continue to serve underinsured and uninsured patients to meet their health care needs. The committee reviewed 3 educational brochures appropriateness for the clients served in Clinical Services.

• Program manager attended the UCCS workshop on Care Equity and Culturally Congruent Practice the focus was to increase providers to the cultural of poverty and its impact on receiving health care, increase awareness of the health care staff to provide not only services but to deliver health care services with humility. The presentation was provided by Kaiser in collaboration with the University.

• Clinical services provided a total of 3,411 qualifying patients (composed of initial visits, annual exams, and pregnancy screening tests) from July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012. (the contract year for clinical services is from July 1 prior year to June 30, present year).

Immunization Clinic
• International Travel staff held a group travel clinic on June 6 at the Olympic Training Center for the disadvantaged youth’s Basketball Team’s visit to Brazil, sponsored by USA Men’s Basketball. We immunized 28 people with yellow fever vaccine and some of those travelers also received typhoid, Hepatitis A, and influenza vaccines. In addition, we provided education on safe health practices for their trip.
• Met with Jeff Martin, a paramedic with the Colorado Springs Fire Department, to discuss the status of vaccination among school age children in our community. Mr. Martin is working with a safety net group in the county, exploring ways in which local paramedics might support immunization services to our citizens.
• Worked out details of sharing a public health nurse position with the Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic. This non-exempt employee will work 50% for the TB Clinic and 50% for Immunizations in the children’s vaccination clinic. Position has been advertised.
• Immunization Program provided information to the community and local health care providers surrounding adequate tetanus-related treatment and vaccination for injuries following the Waldo Canyon fire.

Human Resources—Kathy Vincent, S.P.H.R., Division Director
• Turnover for June was 2%. This reflects the “goings” of 1 FT Educator, 1 FT Public Health Nurse, 1 FT Program Assistant and 1 FT Development and Sustainability Director.
• Vacancy activity for the month of June consisted of recruitment activities for 1 Public Health Director, 1 Educator, 1 Medical Director and 1 Registered Dietitian.

Office of Communication—Susan Wheelan, M.B.A., Communication Director
Provided staffing to the Joint Information Center, prepared and disseminated numerous public health messages in coordination with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Waldo Canyon Fire
Joint Information Center, social media (Facebook and Twitter), www.elpasocountyhealth.org website, and news releases to the public and local news media outlets.
• Facilitated media interviews with local television, radio, and print news media about air quality and public health safety.
• Reviewed, edited, and prepared for printing and distribution of several public health education materials for the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC), including guidance for cleanup and re-entry after a wildfire.
• Assisted with staffing at DRC as PIO. All materials are available on www.elpasocountyhealth.org
• Created and updated content on the Waldo Canyon Fire Information web page on El Paso County Public Health’s website.
• Facebook reach for 6/28-7/4: 18,998; 148 “Likes”
• Twitter Followers: reached 400; information was retweeted/shared through citizens, local print and broadcast media, as well as state and local health agencies.
• Website: 12,335 visits to www.elpasocountyhealth.org
- The top 5 pages visited included Waldo Canyon Fire info Page (#4) and Health Advisory (#5)
- Home page
- Birth/Death Records
- WIC
- Waldo Canyon Fire Information
- Wildfire Health Advisory

**Tobacco, Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP)/Health Literacy**

Manitou Springs grant:
- TEPP had 2 ads in Pikes Peak Bulletin to complete the media campaign focused on limiting youth access to non-cigarette tobacco products.

Fountain grant:
- Seven weeks of advertising in the Fountain Valley News focused on limiting youth access to non-cigarette tobacco products.

TEPP General information:
- The Tobacco Education and Prevention Grant application for $620,000 was submitted. The grant will begin October 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012.