

To: Board of Health

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

Date: May 20, 2014 (Reflects April 2014)

Re: Director's Report

Acronyms

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

Director—*Jill Law, R.N., B.S.N., M.H.A.*

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

- EPCPH has submitted our response to CDPHE's Office of Planning and Partnerships "2013 Annual Report" which is a summary of EPCPH's 2013 accomplishments and foreseen challenges in 2014 for each core public health service area. Core public health services assure that essential public health services are being provided to the community. The EPCPH 2012-2017 Strategic Plan's goals and objectives are based on these mandated core public health services.
- The Health Community Collaborative (HCC) Steering committee met to discuss HCC resources and initiatives for 2014. After seeking input from HCC task force leads and co-leads, the committee approved moving forward with "Let's Go! 5-2-1-0", an educational, healthy eating and active living coordinated effort that could be promoted throughout the HCC. The 'Let's Go! 5-2-1-0' program is evidence-based and started from an initiative that began in 2006 (<http://www.letsgo.org/>) in Maine. The Maternal Child Health Programs at El Paso County Public Health currently promote this program to their clients. The HCC will be meeting in May review 2013 obesity information and to discuss a "Let's Go! 5-2-1-0" consistent messaging initiative.

Deputy Director—*Dan Martindale*

Emergency Preparedness and Response:

- Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) staff attended the 2014 Flood Season Preparation workshop sponsored by the City of Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management.
- As a function of Public Health Week, EPR staff planned, orchestrated, and coordinated a full-day EPCPH staff training. This training focused on increasing resiliency by ensuring staff know what to have in a personal preparedness kit and how to plan an emergency communications plan for family in the event of a disaster. EPR staff attended a two-day regional staff meeting in Salida, CO which focused on preparedness efforts throughout Colorado.
- EPR Program Manager attended the second in a year-long series for the Master Exercise Practitioner Program (MEPP). The MEPP mission is to improve the capabilities of emergency management exercise personnel in exercise program management and in every phase of the overall exercise process.

- On April 24, the Colorado Legislature presented a resolution to the volunteers of the Medical Reserve Corps of El Paso County (MRCEPC) in recognition of their efforts during the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires. Mobilized during both fires, 144 volunteers provided more than 2,100 hours of volunteer medical and behavioral health support at shelters, disaster assistance centers, town hall meetings and as residents returned to their devastated neighborhoods.

The Terrorism Liaison Officer (TLO) report from the Colorado Information Analysis Center

- The TLO attended the Train the Trainer program for The Community Awareness Program™ (CAP), which empowers citizens to help play a role in enhancing our community's safety. The CAP is an interactive course taught by members of the public safety community. It provides citizens with the basic tools needed to recognize and help prevent criminal activity and terrorism in the United States while preserving civil liberties protected by the U.S. Constitution.

Disease Prevention and Control—*Dr. Bill Letson, M.D., Medical Director*

Communicable Disease (CD) - reflects CD activities in April, 2014:

- Reportable infectious diseases - 36 infectious disease cases were reported and investigated: campylobacter (3), cryptosporidiosis (3), giardia (5), chronic hepatitis B (7), influenza, hospitalized (4), pertussis (1), relapsing fever (1), Salmonella (4), shigella (1), Shiga-toxin Producing e coli (STEC) (1), varicella (3), and viral meningitis (3).
- Possible foodborne illness complaints: 3
- CD Staff investigated 7 outbreaks in April: 5 GI illness/norovirus in long term care facilities; 1 norovirus in a college-level facility dorm; 1 chemical exposure in a school.
- CD Program responded to 10 calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals, or other rabies-related concerns. From those inquiries one animal was tested for rabies (skunk), and it was negative.

Tuberculosis (TB) – reflects TB Program activities for April, 2014:

- New active TB cases investigated: 1
(This case is of interest in that it is an MDR case, transferred from out of country after being on therapy for a year. EPC TB Program will complete the DOT therapy course over the next year)
- Total DOT/DOPT visits: 18
- General TB skin tests done: TB - 35 , IZ - 31
- TB Blood tests (Quantiferon) done related to contact investigations: 5
- Contacts evaluated/tested: 5
- Latent TB Infection (LTBI) cases under treatment: 11
- TB nurses hosted a training session for nurses and other involved health-care providers on placing and reading TB skin tests.

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

Black Forest Fire Response and Recovery

- Environmental Health (EH) continues to review on-site wastewater treatment system evaluations as part of the plan approval process that helps assure the property owner that the rebuilt structure will be connected to a system that is adequately sized, and wasn't damaged by the fire or fire-fighting activities.
- To date, 306 on-site wastewater treatment system evaluations of the 488 homes that were destroyed have been submitted for our review. Of the 306 OWTS evaluations, 64 have required a repair permit to either replace a damaged system or relocate the system.

Retail Food Safety Program - Environmental health specialists completed the following activities to promote food safety and prevent foodborne illness in our community:

- Retail Food Establishment (RFE) routine inspections: 423
- RFE follow-up inspections: 75
- RFE plan reviews – new construction: 5
- RFE plan reviews – remodel: 2
- RFE pre-operational inspections: 34
- RFE complaint investigations: 14
- RFE compliance proceedings: 6
- Students took advantage of our online Basic Food Safety class : 25
- Students took our on-site Basic Food Safety class: 4
- The Food Safety Advisory Group met on April 24, and discussed a proposed retail food establishment rating program among other topics.

On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems and Groundwater Protection Program - Environmental health specialists completed the following activities to promote proper design, siting and installation of on-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) to protect drinking water originating from groundwater:

- OWTS final inspections: 29
- OWTS soil and site evaluations: 17
- OWTS new permits issued: 13
- OWTS repair permits issued: 25
- OWTS application/design reviews: 19
- Pumper truck inspections: 3

Land-Use and Planning

- Seven El Paso County Development Services Division projects were submitted for review and comment. One of the projects is a proposed 24-lot (2.5 acre minimum lot size) residential development utilizing individual private water wells, and onsite wastewater treatment systems. The soils reports support the use of OWTS for this proposed development project, and it anticipated that a majority of the lots will support conventional Treatment Level 1. However, there will be the need for a few OWTS's to be professionally engineered Treatment Level 2 and higher to meet site restrictions.
- Two City of Manitou Springs Planning Department development projects were submitted for review and comment.

Outreach

- Environmental Health Division Director along with Teller County and Tri-County Health Department EH Directors' presented to the Colorado Joint Agricultural Committee at the State Capitol. Their presentation covered core environmental public health programs and emerging challenges. Committee members asked for explanations about public drinking water, private wells, bio-solid applications, spill response, food safety and post flood concerns.

Air Quality Control Program -- Staff reviewed and approved two construction activity permits to assure that contractors have adequate fugitive dust control plans.

- Staff reviewed and approved eight open burning permits to evaluate air quality issues that may impact public health.
- The Air Quality Technical Committee met to develop goals, objectives, and tasks to help identify activities and projects to be accomplished over the next two years.

Childcare Inspection Program -- Environmental health specialists completed the following activities to prevent the spread of disease in licensed childcare facilities.

- Regular inspections: 25
- Preoperational inspections: 3
- Staff completed a child care logic model to include short term and long term outcome for the program.

Recreational Water Program -- Environmental health specialists completed the 15 regular inspections to prevent the spread of disease in public pools and hot tubs in the month of April.

Body Art Safety Program -- Environmental health specialists completed the following activities to prevent the spread of disease at body art facilities:

- Regular Inspections: 4
- Preoperational Inspections: 3
- Plan Review: 1

Health Services—*Kelley Christians, R.D. Division Director*

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP):

- Program Manager provided a presentation regarding Nurse Family Partnership program to nursing students at University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. The presentation increased the awareness of Nurse Family Partnership goals and objectives.
- A Nurse Home Visitor facilitated training for all Nurse Home Visitors on regarding implementation of Quality Improvement Tools developed by the National Service Office.

Strong and Healthy Families (SHF):

- Program received 18 referrals from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) case managers.
- The Lead Community Health Educator attended the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Conference sponsored by Peaceful Households. The conference increased awareness of mandatory reporting responsibilities, as well as the response process implemented following confirmation of child abuse and/or neglect.

Maternal Child Health (MCH):

Child Health/ Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP):

- The ECOP Public Health Nurse conducted a Healthy Eating/Active Living session at the Alliance for Kids Conference on April 5, 2014 for 12 child care providers.
- The ECOP Public Health Nurse and Program Manager completed the third and final mentoring sessions with the child care staff that participated in the Healthy Eating/Active Living classes. Recruiting has started for the next set of classes to begin in June.
- The ECOP Community Health Educator began collecting information on food access by conducting a five question survey with WIC, Nurse Family Partnership and Strong and Healthy Families clients.

Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (HCP):

- The HCP Public Health Nurses provide care coordination to children with special needs. Our current caseload is 46. We picked up 10 new referrals this month and provided information and referrals to an additional seven clients.
- One of the HCP Public Health Nurses attends weekly trans-disciplinary meetings with Early Intervention at The Resource Exchange to coordinate services.
- The HCP Family Support Specialist gave a program outreach presentation to the School District 20 Special Education Advisory Council.

- The HCP staff conducted a visit to the Community Health Partnership on April 14, meeting with the three RCCO nurse case managers to look for ways to collaborate on pediatric cases.

Clinical Services:

- Clinical Manager met with internal programs and external program managers working with high risk populations to review three educational handouts for patients in Clinical Services. Managers also shared updates about their programs and projects.
- Clinical Manager attended the Pikes Peak Breast Coalition in collaboration with other community agencies to finalize the agenda for the breast cancer prevention educational event scheduled on May 10, 2014. This year's event will have special emphasis on women at high risk for breast cancer with limited medical resources. This free event will be held at the Hillside Community Center.
- Clinical Manager attended the Community Access to Coordinated Health (CATCH) meeting to exchange updates with community medical clinics and organizations serving high risk population with medical and mental services.

Women, Infants and Children:

- EPCPH QI team and WIC staff are working together to change the method of scheduling appointments to a "Next Day Scheduling" method. There have been four other WIC programs in Colorado who have changed to this method of scheduling. The greatest benefit that has been shown from the other counties is a significant increase in "show rate".
- There are several changes to the WIC food package being proposed. USDA has finalized their decisions and now it is up to the States to take these changes and decide if, when and/or how these decisions will be implemented in each state. One confirmed change effective June 1, 2014 is that toddlers' fruit and vegetable checks will increase from \$6.00 to \$8.00 per month.
- Colorado State WIC is looking into different texting platforms that can be used to remind clients of their WIC appointments as well as other WIC information.

Office of Communication—Susan Wheelan, MBA, Communication Director

Tobacco Education Prevention and Partnership (TEPP)

- In a meeting with Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences staff, TEPP staff discussed the college's tobacco prevention education work with youth at Colorado Springs community centers. The Beth-El student group will be presenting the outcomes of their education program at the next Tobacco Education Coalition.
- Colorado Quitline fax referral program training was provided to recently hired staff at the April EPCPH new hire orientation. EPCPH staff are expected to ask, advise, and refer clients who use tobacco products to the Colorado Quitline. TEPP team members will be providing ongoing technical assistance, support, and training during the implementation period.
- A youth coalition meeting was held at Palmer High School. The students learned local, state, and national tobacco facts by playing "Tobacco Jeopardy." The game helped the students understand the negative impacts of tobacco.
- April 22, 2014 was Earth Day and students from the Palmer High School youth coalition decided to clean up the area around their school known as "Smokers' Alley." Students were able to fill a large container with only cigarette butts. The students were alarmed at the amount of cigarette litter they collected and hope to be able to present their findings to school officials.
- The Colorado QuitLine Fax Referral program launched within EPCPH direct service programs March 3, 2014. During the first month, EPCPH staff reported eight fax referrals to the Colorado QuitLine. During April, there were 10 referrals. TEPP staff continue to monitor and evaluate the system for continuous improvement. TEPP staff, along with the Quality Improvement Team, began work on completing the

storyboard for this project. The first storyboard will include all activities through December 31, 2013. At least one additional storyboard will be completed to highlight the program's accomplishments in 2014. This project is still in progress.

- Boys and Girls Club will begin partnering with the EPCPH TEPP. TEPP staff will meet weekly with children, ages 13-17, over a 10-week summer program. This youth coalition will be trained regarding the problem of tobacco and educate them to become youth advocates for tobacco prevention. TEPP staff will develop a schedule for curriculum and activities.
- TEPP staff attended "Constructing Effective Tobacco-free Schools Policy Training" in Pueblo. This training provided strategies and tools to review, communicate, and enforce tobacco-free schools policies in school districts. Staff also attended the second course in DPHE's "Shaping Policy for Health" competency-based policy curriculum. This two-day training provided useful information about how to use policy analysis tools when working on policy, systems, and environmental solutions to health problems. Finally, staff attended the "N-O-T on Tobacco Facilitator Summit" hosted by the American Lung Association. Dr. Nate Riggs, from Colorado State University, presented information about the effects nicotine and marijuana has on the teen brain. There was also useful information presented on the increase in e-cigarette use and the need for regulation of these devices.

Communication Support

Print News Media

04.21.14 – **The Gazette**, "[Colorado Springs-area flu season will go down as 'worst in years'](#)" Information provided by Shannon Rowe, M.P.H., Communicable Diseases program manager and Susan Wheelan, Office of Communications Director. Estimated daily circulation, 72,800; 125,000 online.

Television 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' websites that are not included in this news media value report.

04.28.14 – **KKTV Channel 11** at 10 p.m. "[Call for Action Alert: How Safe is Your Favorite Restaurant?](#)" Interview provided by Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Environmental Health Division Director. Local viewership: 6,035; estimated value: \$6,535.35.

04.25.14 – **KOAA (Channel 5)** "[Your Healthy Family: Local Numbers on Obesity.](#)" Article by Annie Snead. Interview provided by Jill Law, R.N., M.H.A., Public Health Director. Aired 4/25 at 5 p.m. Local viewership: 44,931; estimated value: \$4,166.91

04.22.14 – **Fox21** "[How to prevent the Hantavirus infection](#)" Article by Aisha Morales. Interview by Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Environmental health Division Director. Aired twice on 4/22 and three times on 4/23. Local viewership: 46,846; estimated value: \$14,280.64.

04.17.14 – **KOAA (Channel 5)** "[Your Healthy Family: E-cigarettes](#)" Article by Annie Snead. Interview provided by Susan Wheelan, Communication Director. Local viewership: 69,402; estimated value: \$7,708.80.

Social Media/Online digital media

The Office of Communication provides content management for social media platforms.

April content included: National Walking Day, Alcohol Awareness Month, National Public Health Week information, disaster preparedness, radon testing, 5210 Let's Go, Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership at 9Health Fair, obesity and overweight. Facebook: 472 "likes;" Twitter: 1,087 current followers.

Website statistics

According to Google Analytics, www.elpasocountyhealth.org had 7,802 unique visitors to the site with 21,364 pageviews (from April 1 to 30, 2014). The top five most visited pages were birth and death records, home page, WIC, retail food establishments and inspection reports.