To: Board of Health

From: Dan Martindale, M.P.A.
Public Health Director

Date: December 15, 2014 (Reflects November 2014)

Re: Director’s Report

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

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

Communicable Disease (CD) activities for November:
- Forty-four infectious disease cases were reported and investigated:
  - Campylobacter: 4
  - Giardia: 3
  - Hospitalized influenza: 8
  - Pertussis: 11
  - STEC (shiga-toxin producing E. coli): 3
  - Cholera: 1 (travel associated)
  - Hepatitis B, Chronic: 3
  - Meningitis, Aseptic/viral: 1
  - Salmonella: 7
  - Varicella (chicken pox): 3
- Possible foodborne illness complaints: 9
- Outbreaks investigated: 3 (one unknown gastrointestinal illness at an elementary school, two long-term care facilities unknown gastrointestinal illness – suspected norovirus).
- Responded to 20 calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals, or other rabies-related concerns. From those inquiries three animals were tested for rabies (one cat, two raccoons); none tested positive for rabies.
- Persons recommended to receive post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP): two (one received a monkey bite while in Peru, and one received a bite from a raccoon that was unavailable for testing).

Tuberculosis (TB) activities for November:
- New active TB cases investigated: 1
- New suspect TB cases investigated: 0
- Cases on Direct Observed Therapy (DOT): 1
- Cases on Directly Observed Preventive Therapy (DOPT): 0
- Total DOT/DOPT visits: 7
- General TB skin tests done: TB - 11, IZ – 21
- TB Blood tests (Quantiferon) done related to contact investigations: 1
- TB Skin tests done related to contact investigations: 0
- Contact Investigations Ongoing: 1
- Contacts evaluated/tested: 1
- Refugee and/or class B immigrant TB evaluations: 5
- Latent TB Infection (LTBI) cases under treatment: 4
- LTBI cases completing treatment this month: 1

Environmental Health (EH)—Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Division Director
Air Quality Control Program
- Reviewed and approved two construction activity permits to assure contractors have adequate fugitive dust control plans.
- Reviewed and approved 10 open burning permit applications to evaluate air quality issues that may impact public health. One open burning permit was denied because the applicant did not provide adequate information.
- Staff investigated six complaints of excessive emissions (smoke or dust).

Body Art Safety Program
Since January 1, 2014, staff has conducted 56 routine and two follow-up inspections to prevent the spread of disease at body art facilities: The top three critical violations noted during routine inspections in 2014 were:
- Chemicals not properly labeled - 16%
- Poor cleaning and sterilization procedures - 8%
- Inadequate/improper sharps storage or disposal - 4%

Black Forest Fire Recovery
- To date, 345 on-site wastewater treatment system evaluations of the 488 homes that were destroyed have been submitted for review. System evaluations are conducted by either a Colorado Professional Engineer or EPCPH Licensed Installer, and are submitted electronically to EPCPH. Of the 345 OWTS evaluations, 92 have required a repair permit to either replace a damaged system, or relocate the system.

Child Care Inspection Program
Since January 1, 2014, staff has conducted 184 routine and 30 follow-up inspections to prevent the spread of disease in licensed child care facilities. The top three critical violations noted during routine inspections in 2014 included:
- Sanitizer/disinfectant not properly used - 42%
- Lack of safe water supply and/or pressure - 13%
- Inadequate potentially hazardous food storage - 12%

Land Use and Planning
- Seven El Paso County Development Services Division projects were submitted for review and comment. One of the projects is a variance request to allow a small business operation in an area zoned for residential use. Our comments included the classification of the existing water system as either private or public, a potential increase in wastewater flow from business customers to the existing on-site wastewater treatment system designed for residential use, and the creation of an animal waste disposal plan.

On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems and Groundwater Protection Program
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:
- Final inspections: 35
- Soil and site evaluations: 26
- New permit applications: 15
- Repair permit applications: 25
- Application/design reviews: 36
- Pumper truck inspections: 2
- Complaints: 3

Recreational Water Program
Since January 1, 2014 staff have conducted 425 routine and 24 follow-up inspections to promote safety and prevent waterborne illness. The top three critical violations noted during routine inspections in 2014 included:
- pH level out of required parameters 9%
- Chlorine level out of required parameters 6%
- Inability to see the main drain from the deck (turbidity too high) 1%

Retail Food Safety Program
Since January 1, 2014 staff have conducted 4,227 routine and 857 follow-up inspections to promote food safety and prevent foodborne illness. The top three critical violations noted during routine inspections in 2014 included:
- Improper cold holding of foods – 13%
- Lack of soap or paper towels at hand washing sink – 11%
- Chemicals or cleaning agents not properly labeled – 7%
- Staff also conducted four plan reviews for new construction.
- Pre-operational inspections: 19
- Complaint investigations: 15
- Students attending of our online Basic Food Safety class: 19
- Students attending our on-site Basic Food Safety class: 30

School Laboratory Safety Program
Fifteen of 46 El Paso County school laboratories will be inspected during the 2014-15 school year. Principals and science teachers at the 15 schools were sent an email advising them of the inspections. A Chemical Self Certification Guidance document, which includes helpful information and links to various resources, was attached to the emails.

Emergency Preparedness and Response:-- Lisa Powell, M.P.S.
- The Emergency Preparedness Team attended Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Operations and Planning for All Hazards. This three-day course was brought in from the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service. The course utilized activities and decision-based exercises to develop and reinforce emergency management, situational awareness, information management, resource management, and decision-making skills.
- The Emergency Preparedness Team hosted the quarterly South Central Region emergency preparedness partners meeting in Fairplay, CO. The topic for discussion was planning for closed points of dispensing (POD). This planning effort helps local public health departments leverage staffing in an emergency that requires distribution of medication to the public through the Strategic National Stockpile.

Health Services—Kelley Christians, R.D. Division Director
Clinical Services:
- A total of 319 visits of which 135 were qualifying visits towards the July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 contract.

Immunization/Travel Program:
- Immunization and Communicable Disease programs have collaborated to finalize a post-exposure rabies vaccine policy. Humans exposed to rabies virus require prompt wound care as well as human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) and four doses of rabies vaccine over the two weeks following exposure. Rabies vaccine is costly and the need to go to the emergency room for vaccine increases that cost. Providing post-exposure rabies vaccine in the Immunization Clinic will help to reduce the costs for El Paso County residents who require post-exposure rabies treatment.
Maternal Child Health (MCH)

Child Health/Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP):
- The ECOP Public Health Nurse taught a Healthy Eating class for 14 family child care providers and conducted individual mentoring sessions afterwards.

ABCD (Assuring Better Child and Health Development) Developmental Screening:
- The ABCD Public Health Nurse implemented and facilitated a taskforce meeting for 17 community partners who are working on improving the developmental screening system of care in El Paso County.

Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (HCP):
- Our current caseload is 53. We acquired seven new referrals this month and provided information and referrals to an additional eight clients.

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP):
- There are 203 first time mothers enrolled in the program.

Strong and Healthy Families (SHF):
- The program received 20 referrals from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) case manager. There were four graduates in November; total number of graduates in 2014: 38.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC): WIC has a client caseload of 15,132 (October).

Laboratory—Jean Hurd, MT, Laboratory Director
- The laboratory performed 478 total water tests for the month of November, including 261 for public water systems. Technologists are now entering monthly bacteriological and nitrate results using the Colorado Drinking Water Portal, a new process for the laboratory. This portal was designed to provide more efficient and timely data submittal from certified laboratories throughout Colorado.
- One staff member completed a course offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) titled “Preparing Your Laboratory: Preparedness through Exercises.” This live webinar provided the staff member with several examples for exercises using the steps of our laboratory preparedness plan. An operations based drill is planned for December 2014.

Office of Communication—Susan Wheelan, M.B.A., Communication Director

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.

11.18.14 – FOX 21 News (Fox) at 9 p.m. Illegal tattoos causing health concerns in Fremont County. Information provided by Office of Communication. Local viewership: 1,437; estimated value $259.

11.20.14 KKTV 11 News (CBS) at 5 p.m. – Students pledge ‘No Smoking Today’ for Great American Smokeout. Interview provided by Dacia Hudson, C.H.E.S, Community Health Educator, Tobacco Education & Prevention Partnership. Local viewership: 29,397; estimated value: $1,076.3

11.24.14 KRDO (ABC) at 4:30 p.m. – Health departments urge anyone 6 months or older to get a flu shot. Information provided by news release from Office of Communication. Local viewership: 6,178; estimated value: $363.
11.24.14 KKTV (CBS) at 5 p.m. – Two people in El Paso County are hospitalized with the flu. Information provided by news release from Office of Communication. Local viewership: 16,761; estimated value: $1,193.

11.24.14 KOAA (NBC) at 5 p.m. – Health departments urge anyone 6 months or older to get a flu shot. Information provided by news release from Office of Communication. Local viewership: 11,811; estimated value: $700.

11.26.14 – FOX 21 News (FOX) at 9 p.m. How retail food establishment inspections protect public health. Interview by Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Environmental Health Director; and Tara Olson, Environmental Health Specialist. Local viewership: 14,457; estimated value: $1,741.

Print Media
11.05.14 Colorado Springs Independent, “Down and out and bitten.” Interview provided by Office of Communication.

Communication Support
- Susan Wheelan, Communication Director was selected to participate on the Governor’s Marijuana Education Oversight Committee, which was created pursuant to Senate Bill 13-283 and Executive Order 2013-007. This committee is convened by the Governor’s Office and facilitated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.
- Initiated development of new print marketing materials to use as part of marketing plan for Immunization Clinic and Clinical Services to increase client visits to clinics.
- Project direction for EPCPH website responsive design upgrade project initiated to allow website to be viewed on multiple devices and improve overall user access and usability.
- Initiated media buy and communication plan for radon awareness month (to launch in January).
- Danielle Oller, Communication Specialist participated as panelist on the topic of Ebola and risk communication for the November luncheon for Public Relations Society of American (PRSA), Pikes Peak Chapter.

Social Media/Online digital media
The Office of Communication provides content management for social media platforms. November content included: Holiday food safety, importance of flu vaccine, Great American Smokeout promotion, Ebola facts, National Diabetes Awareness Month: 496 Facebook page followers; Twitter: 1,262 current followers.

Healthinfo requests:
The Office of Communication receives and refers e-mails that come to our website each day and tracks our responses. These e-mails reveal information needs that could be addressed through creation of print or website material. Between November 1 and 30, our office received and answered/referred approximately 51 emails through our website.

Website statistics
According to Google Analytics, [www.elpasocountyhealth.org](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org) had 9,403 unique visitors to the site with 17,562 pageviews (from November 2, to December 2, 2014). The top 5 most visited pages were birth and death records, homepage, WIC, inspection reports, location/directions.

Tobacco Education Prevention and Partnership (TEPP) —Susan Wheelan, M.B.A., Communication Director
- Attended the Coalition 2.0: A Fresh Perspective on Mobilizing Communities for Change provided by the Colorado School of Public Health. This training provided strategies for building and strengthening policy coalitions.
- Met with grantees from Hillside Community Center, Deerfield Hills Community Center, and Meadows Park Community Center to discuss the expectations of the tobacco mini-grants funded by Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP). Facilitated the Tobacco Education Coalition (TEC) meeting and had 20 community partners in attendance. TEPP provided an overview of past and current successes related to policy and how TEC intends to move forward.
- Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) participated in a GASO event at Palmer High School where students encouraged their peers to either quit smoking, even for the day, or to never start. Promotional items branded with the Colorado QuitLine and tobaccofreeCO.org were given to students as well as informational brochures. EPCPH sent out a press release to local media to promote the event. KKTV and the Gazette ran the story.
- During the month of November, EPCPH referred six clients and DHS referred 13 clients to the Colorado QuitLine Fax Referral program for tobacco cessation assistance.
- TEPP provided materials and resources for Health Jam events that were held at Woodmen Roberts and Pioneer Elementary Schools in Academy School District 20. Approximately 700 students were reached. TEPP also provided materials and resources for a health fair at California Casualty Insurance, reaching about 350 employees with high tobacco use rates.
- Met with Health Services Division and TB Clinic staff to provide the annual Colorado QuitLine Fax Referral Program training.