

**To:** Board of Health  
**From:** Susan Wheelan  
 Interim Public Health Director  
**Date:** October 24, 2018 (reflects September 2018)  
**Re:** Director's Report



**Acronyms**

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

**Office of Communication (OOC):**

**Television News Media**

Media value dollar figures reflect equivalent costs for 30-second spot advertising during the respective newscasts and times. **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.**

| Topic   | Date      | Media Outlet | Number of viewers | Estimated Value    |
|---|-----------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <a href="#">Animal bite report portal</a>     | 9/10/2018 | KOAA         | 17,312            | \$1,173.00         |
| <a href="#">Radon testing in schools</a>      | 9/11/2018 | KKTV         | 35,810            | \$4,143.75         |
| <a href="#">Teen vaping</a>                   | 9/13/2018 | KKTV         | 31,331            | \$3,646.50         |
| <a href="#">Launch of Man Therapy</a>         | 9/13/2018 | KKTV         | 43,669            | \$3,3171.00        |
| <a href="#">Launch of Man Therapy</a>         | 9/13/2018 | KOAA         | 54,096            | \$3,203.20         |
| <a href="#">Lead water testing in schools</a> | 9/25/2018 | KKTV         | 35,810            | \$4,143.75         |
| <a href="#">Restaurant Report Card</a>        | 9/27/2018 | KXRM         | 10,079            | \$1,010.82         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                  |           |              | <b>228,107</b>    | <b>\$50,492.02</b> |

**Print/Online**

- 9/13/2018- The Gazette, "[El Paso County taking different approach to suicide, mental illness: Man Therapy](#)" by Jakob Rodgers. Interview provided by Susan Wheelan, Interim Public Health Director.
- 9/24/2018- The Gazette, "[After record severe flu season in 2017, Coloradans urged to get vaccinated early](#)" by Jakob Rodgers. Interview provided by Shannon Rowe, Epidemiologist.

**Radio**

- 9/19/2018- KRCC, "El Paso County Joins: 'Man Therapy' Campaign To Combat Male Suicide Rates" by Abigail Beckman. Interview provided by Susan Wheelan, Interim Director.
- 9/24/2018-KRDO, "The Extra with Renae Roberts" by Renae Roberts. Interview provided by Kelsey Leva, Youth Health and Development Planner.

## **Public Health Campaigns and Projects**

- Completed review, design, and layout of the 2018-2022 Community Health Improvement Plan.
- The Office of Communication, in addition to partners from El Paso County, Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management, Colorado Springs Fire Department, El Paso County Sheriff's Office and others, participated in a functional exercise to test operational coordination and core capabilities of public information and warning in the event of an emergency.
- Public Health, in collaboration with stakeholders in the community including the El Paso County Sheriff's Office (EPSO) and NAMI, completed the official launch of the mental health stigma reduction campaign that will support EPSO's co-responder model. This included a proclamation recognizing National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and a presentation given at the September 13 Board of County Commissioners' (BOCC) meeting. This initiative supports the 2018-2022 Community Health Improvement Plan's goal to decrease the incidence of poor mental health and substance use and misuse in El Paso County.
- Provided Legislative Tour in coordination with State Office of Behavioral Health around Substance Abuse and Opioids.

## **Online Media**

- Provided information on public health issues and public health functions to external partners on social media and website.
  - 1,409 Facebook page followers with an average of 2,980 unique users reached monthly
  - 5,386 Twitter followers with 27,600 tweet impressions
  - 462 Instagram followers

## **Website statistics**

[www.elpasocountyhealth.org](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org):

- 8,382 new visitors to the site with 24,141 page views

## **Strategic Development and Initiatives Office (SDIO):**

- Public Health Planner and Community Outreach Coordinator for the Resilient, Inspired, Strong, Engaged (RISE) Coalition/Women Infants and Children (WIC) facilitated the second Meet Me in the Park community event. This event was coordinated by the RISE Coalition's Resident Leaders to gather public input for the renovation of Panorama Park and to promote social connection among residents in southeast Colorado Springs.
- The Healthy Environment Planner represented EPCPH on a panel discussion focusing on issues impacting our community of families and young children in El Paso County at the Early Childhood Forum hosted by Alliance for Kids on September 13 at the Ivywild School. Forum topics included equity, diversity & inclusion, two-generation approach, child health, early care and education workforce and school finance. Participation in the forum as a speaker aligned with the agency's goals to strengthen EPCPH's capabilities to provide information on public health issues and public health functions to external partners and to increase public awareness of health equity issues, its systemic causes, and opportunities to foster health equity.
- Population Health Epidemiologist developed a dashboard on the Thriving Colorado's website to display 2017 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey results. Through its initiatives, programs, services and resources EPCPH and community partners actively seek to achieve excellent physical and mental health and wellbeing among all youth in El Paso County, by reducing the factors that contribute to risky or harmful youth behaviors, and strengthening those factors that contribute to improving youth health and safety. This dashboard will monitor the collective progress toward achieving this goal as well as educate and raise awareness about the health status of El Paso County youth.

## Disease Prevention – Health Promotion Division

### Disease Prevention and Control

#### General Trends:

- Compared to this time last year, El Paso County (EPC) has had higher numbers of salmonella cases. While there is a multistate outbreak related to ground beef, only two cases from EPC are linked to the outbreak. Interviews of other cases have not indicated a common exposure, but we will monitor results from additional lab tests to identify any links.
- Influenza surveillance for the 2018-2019 season began on October 1. Case numbers of hospitalized influenza will be included in next month's report.

**Table 1: Notifiable diseases reported to El Paso County Public Health through Sept. 2018**

| Disease  | YTD 2018   | Total 2017 |
|--|------------|------------|
| <b>Food/Waterborne Diseases</b>                    |            |            |
| Campylobacter                                      | 85         | 106        |
| Cryptosporidium                                    | 11         | 14         |
| Cyclosporiasis                                     | 3          | 0          |
| Giardia  | 26         | 33         |
| Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)                    | 0          | 3          |
| Hepatitis A  | 2          | 12         |
| Legionellosis                                      | 15         | 5          |
| Salmonella   | 84         | 92         |
| Shigella   | 9          | 4          |
| Shiga Toxin-producing E. coli (STEC)               | 12         | 24         |
| Vibriosis  | 7          | 0          |
| <b>Food/Waterborne Diseases Total</b>              | <b>252</b> | <b>293</b> |
| <b>Viral Hepatitis</b>                             |            |            |
| Hepatitis B (acute)                                | 4          | 1          |
| Hepatitis B (chronic)                              | 51         | 66         |
| Hepatitis C (acute)                                | 6          | 4          |
| Hepatitis C (chronic)                              | 551        | 671        |
| <b>Viral Hepatitis Total</b>                       | <b>612</b> | <b>742</b> |
| <b>Healthcare Associated Infections</b>            |            |            |
| Carbapenem Nonsusceptible Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) | 32         | 32         |
| Carbapenem-Resistant Pseudomonas Aeruginosa (CRPA) | 43         | 69         |
| <b>Healthcare Associated Infections Total</b>      | <b>66</b>  | <b>101</b> |
| <b>Vaccine Preventable Diseases</b>                |            |            |
| Haemophilus influenzae (H. flu)                    | 6          | 2          |
| Measles  | 0          | 0          |
| Meningococcal Disease                              | 0          | 1          |
| Mumps  | 4          | 1          |
| Pertussis  | 30         | 59         |
| Rubella  | 0          | 0          |
| Varicella  | 12         | 28         |
| <b>Vaccine Preventable Diseases Total</b>          | <b>52</b>  | <b>91</b>  |
| Hospitalized Influenza*                            | 328        | 495        |

\*Flu Season 2017: October 2, 2016 - May 27, 2017.

\*Flu Season 2018: October 1, 2017 - May 26, 2018.

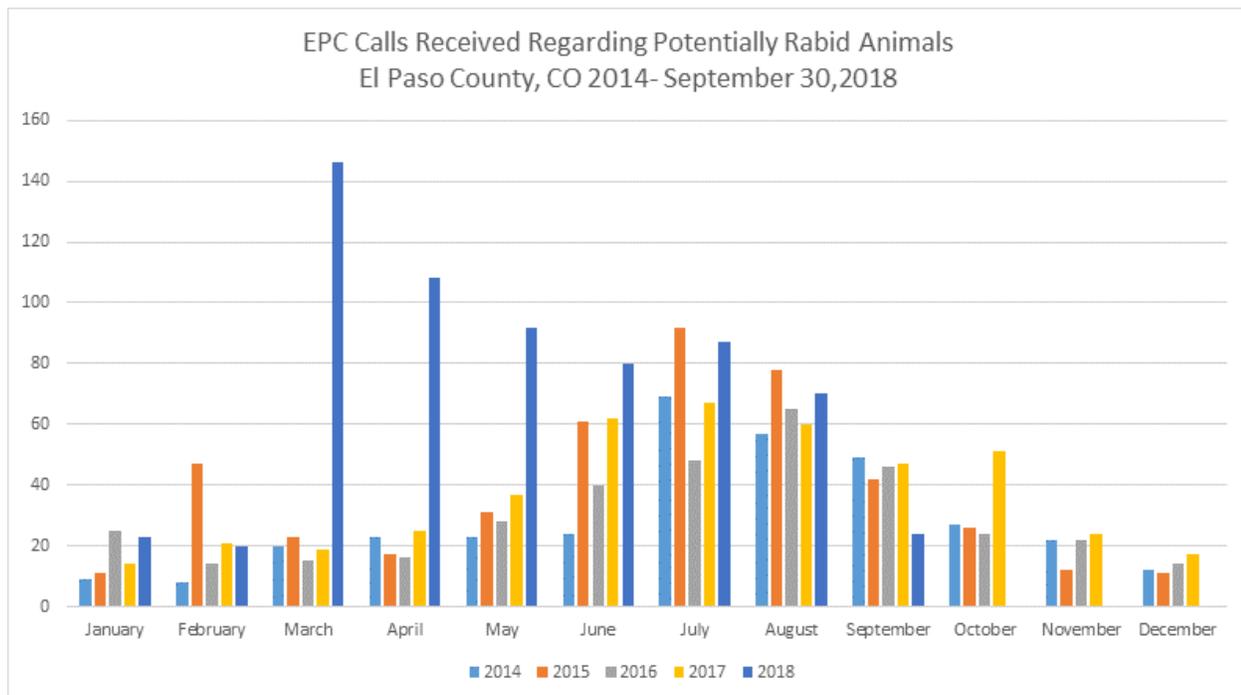
### Foodborne Illness Complaints:

- 18 possible foodborne illness complaints; none were referred to Environmental Health.

Rabies: In September, there were substantially fewer rabies concerns as skunks are less active at this time of year and bats are beginning to hibernate or migrate south.

- There were 24 calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals, and other rabies-related concerns (compared to 70 calls in August).
- Six animals were tested by EPCPH for rabies including one skunk and five bats. All animals tested negative. (compared to 29 tests and nine positives in August).

Total rabid animals for 2018: 66 (59 skunks, one raccoon, six bats)



### **Tuberculosis (TB):**

- Cases on Direct Observed Therapy (DOT): 9
- Cases on Directly Observed Preventive Therapy (DOPT): 10
- Total DOT/DOPT/VDOT visits: 138
- General TB skin tests done: 95
- Number of contacts screened/tested: 9
- Total number of evaluations: 21
- Latent TB Infection (LTBI) cases under treatment: 16
- LTBI cases completing treatment this month: 1

### **Maternal Child Health (MCH)**

- The Program Manager attended the Colorado Maternal Child Health Social Return on Investment (SROI) Workgroup to learn about the use of SROI in evaluating MCH programming across the state.
- Client activity this month included (grant required activity)
  - 36 current active care coordination case load

- 19 new case management referrals received
- 16 new information only referrals received
- Eight assessments were completed or reviewed
- Eight action plans were completed or reviewed

#### Child Health/Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP):

- Nine child care providers received training for *I am Moving I am Learning* (IMIL), which trains providers to incorporate structured physical activity into their curricula (grant required activity).

#### Promoting Connectedness, Resiliency and Life Skills (PCRLS):

- MCH worked with partners in D-49 to bring *Healing Our Youth* (HOY) to Falcon School District 49 and surrounding community. The mission of HOY is to educate teachers, school staff, parents and youth workers on mental health and mental disorders so that youth with a mental health issue can be identified early, receive help and have better outcomes. MCH has partnered with HOY 2017 to bring this programming to El Paso County.
- MCH conducted trainings and workshops at three local elementary schools.

### **Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP)**

#### Youth Initiatives

- Attended training, hosted by RMC Health, to learn how to effectively deliver a nicotine and vaping presentation to school staff. Many new products are entering the market and it is important to keep schools informed.
- Participated in the District 14 Wellness Meeting and provided information about NOT (Not on Tobacco) — the teen tobacco cessation program and Second Chance—an alternative to suspension program.
- Hosted a NOT facilitator training in Colorado Springs. Two additional community partners were trained to be facilitators and begin implementing the program.
- Attended the annual NOT Summit to connect with other NOT facilitators in Colorado and receive education and resources on electronic smoking devices and JUULs (JUice USB Lighting) e-cigarettes.
- Held the first tobacco-free schools task force meeting with the five 2018-2019 mini-grant schools. Schools within District 11, District 20, District 49, District 2, and District 8 participated. The schools are working on recruiting more Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) club members and planning for their beginning of the year events to promote tobacco-free schools.

#### Tobacco Education, Cessation and Prevention

- During the month of September, EPCPH referred five clients to the Colorado QuitLine Fax Referral program for tobacco cessation assistance.
- Trained seven direct service employees of EPCPH, on the impact of tobacco, the Ask Advise Refer (2As and R) intervention, the Colorado QuitLine benefits, and the internal EPCPH fax referral policy.
- Participated in the Fountain Community Night held on September 18. TEPP staff educated community members about the dangers of tobacco and vape use, and provided cessation resources.
- Staff attended facilitator training for Baby and Me Tobacco Free, an evidence based, best practice smoking cessation program developed to reduce the burden of tobacco on pregnant and postpartum women. Smoking during pregnancy remains one of the most preventable causes of infant mortality. Women who enroll in the program attend four prenatal counseling cessation sessions to receive education and support for quitting smoking and staying quit. Postpartum, the women must remain tobacco free and return monthly for one year to test using a carbon monoxide (CO) monitor, and can earn monthly diaper vouchers.
- Met with the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) to discuss alignment of messaging for resident meetings at the Colorado Springs Housing Authority regarding smoking and fire safety. CSFD and TEPP had an opportunity to present together at a resident meeting at the Kathryn Bates Apartment Complex. TEPP staff also attended resident meetings at two other Colorado Springs Housing Authority properties.

## **Youth Suicide Prevention Planning (YSPP)**

- Participated in a six-week Extension for Community Health Outcomes (ECHO) Colorado series on leading effective coalitions. The series provides experienced coalition leaders with the knowledge and strategies to improve their effectiveness in managing coalitions.
- Attended the monthly meeting of the Colorado State Innovation Model (SIM) Population Health Workgroup. This workgroup works to ensure that SIM interventions improve health outcomes at the community and population level. Agenda items included updates from other SIM workgroups, a presentation from SIM-funded partners at Tri-County Health Department, and a discussion on a one-pager for the SIM Call to Action.
- Participated in a routine conference call with partners at CDPHE and Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention regarding the Colorado National Collaborative (CNC) and other efforts through the Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP). The CNC has partnered with specific Colorado counties to understand more about existing suicide and injury prevention efforts within those counties, as well as develop a statewide, coordinated, data-informed model to prevent suicide and other related causes of premature death. We discussed plans for a meeting of all CNC partners in Denver in October 2018, the *Man Therapy* media campaign, and a request for applications to fund crisis response efforts within schools and school districts that currently do not have suicide prevention efforts in place.
- Facilitated the August Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup meeting with over 20 partners in attendance. The agenda focused on the youth suicide prevention dashboard and the results of the Community Conversations to Inform Youth Suicide Prevention project. The work of the Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup is aligned with the Community Health Improvement Plan.
- Worked with the Office of Communication to develop numerous resources to support the Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup including three handouts for upcoming presentations and a video that describes the role of the Workgroup, progress that has been made, and future work through interviews with Workgroup members. The video was created in partnership with the El Paso County Public Information Office. These communication tools are aligned with the strategic plan.
- Presented to the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Health on the development, progress and early accomplishments of the Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup. These presentations are in alignment with the agency strategic plan.
- Attended Applied Suicide Intervention Skills (ASIST) Training to increase capacity within the youth advocacy team to respond appropriately to individuals who are at high risk of suicide and to gain knowledge about an important suicide prevention training in the community. This training supports skills building among the workforce as described in the Workforce Development Plan.

## **Youth Substance Use Prevention**

- Co-presented with staff from EPCPH and the Colorado School of Public Health to the City of Colorado Springs Marijuana Work Group on 2017 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey data.
- Working closely with Widefield School District 3 and Fountain Fort Carson School District 8 to plan a community event on October 22 called *Surviving School: Tools to Navigate Life Challenges*. The event is designed to allow participants to attend three out of four sessions of their choice. Each session will be student-led with a content matter expert present. An additional “resource and network” room will be available for attendees to interact with various agencies and individuals that contribute to healthy youth development. The sessions are: Conquer Bullying; Building Healthy Relationships; Coping with Depression/Anxiety; School/Life Balance; and a parents-only room: Youth Substance Abuse: Learn what to look for and how to start the conversation (presented by Fort Carson’s Army Substance Abuse Prevention program) and will include resources from Speak Now!
- Members from the Communities That Care (CTC) Teen Advisory Board are currently working on a

presentation entitled "Youth Are the NOW: A Presentation by Teen Leaders to Help Adult Leaders Gather and Amplify Youth Voice" for the Educating Children of Color Conference on January 19, 2019.

**Environmental Health (EH) Division**

Air Quality

- Staff attended “Smoke” (Opacity) school in Pueblo to maintain required certifications in the Air Quality Program; attendance improves our technical expertise and training, and helps us maintain a strong workforce in EH.

Radon Grant/Outreach

- Staff worked with the final cohort of UCCS nursing students on this grant cycle to follow up with individuals who received a free radon test kit through specific outreach events. Those who tested high for radon in El Paso County were provided additional information about radon mitigation, if requested. This partnership with UCCS has been an effective way to enhance our community partnerships, especially by increasing participation with non-traditional partners.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)

- Staff met with The Broadmoor engineers and OWTS industry professionals on-site at the Seven Falls location to strategize on possible solutions related to growth and its OWTS. The current wastewater treatment system has encountered some limitations due to rocky soils and a small suitable area. These opportunities, to work with industry professionals provide the ability to maintain strong relationships that directly benefit public health.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- Participated in two exercises. The city hosted a neighborhood evacuation drill organized by the City of Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management in which we helped with evaluation. We also participated in the Rampart Dam Exercise. This was a functional exercise hosted and organized by Colorado Springs Utilities to test response to a catastrophic dam breach. EPCPH leadership practiced the process for gaining situational awareness and decision making in critical situations. The Emergency Preparedness team participated in the emergency operations center.
- Facilitated the civil military collaborative meeting held at EPCPH. This meeting provided a great opportunity to present an overview of public health capabilities to our military partners.

Laboratory

- Performed 616 bacteriological water tests; 363 for public water systems and 253 for private wells. Seventy-eight tests were performed for inorganic anions.
- Staff participated in training on the recently acquired AB 7500 Polymerase Chain Reaction system. This instrument is one of two supported by the Laboratory Response Network at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Assays for select agents are screened for and confirmed with this technology.

| Environment Health Activity      | September 2018 | 2018 Total | 2017 Total |
|----------------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| Air Quality Construction Permits | 10             | 67         | 66         |
| Air Quality Open Burn Permits    | 3              | 15         | 32         |
| Air Quality Complaints           | 6              | 39         | 42         |
| Animal Bites Reported            | 149            | 1,174      | N/A        |
| Body Art Inspections             | 5              | 42         | 75         |
| Body Art Follow-up Inspections   | 0              | 3          | 3          |

|  |     |       |       |
|--|-----|-------|-------|
| Body Art Complaints                        | 0   | 6     | 14    |
| Child Care Regular Inspections             | 12  | 109   | 183   |
| Child Care Follow-up Inspections           | 0   | 18    | 35    |
| Child Care Complaints                      | 0   | 6     | 2     |
| Land-Use Planning Review                   | 18  | 166   | 198   |
| OWTS Final Inspections                     | 53  | 405   | 512   |
| OWTS Soil And Site Evaluations             | 38  | 349   | 480   |
| OWTS New Permit Applications               | 24  | 263   | 322   |
| OWTS Repair Permit Applications            | 24  | 224   | 285   |
| OWTS Application Design Reviews            | 43  | 435   | 582   |
| OWTS Acceptance Doc for Title Transfer     | 78  | 801   | 910   |
| OWTS Pumper Truck Inspections              | 13  | 80    | 77    |
| OWTS Complaints                            | 6   | 32    | 36    |
| Recreational Water Safety Inspections      | 4   | 315   | 402   |
| Recreational Water Follow-up Inspections   | 1   | 33    | 20    |
| Recreational Water Complaints              | 0   | 11    | 8     |
| RFE Regular Inspections                    | 434 | 3,250 | 4,312 |
| RFE Follow-up Inspections                  | 81  | 709   | 842   |
| RFE Complaint Investigations               | 39  | 248   | 233   |
| RFE Plan Reviews                           | 17  | 139   | 122   |
| School Safety Regular Inspections          | 3   | 37    | 60    |
| School Safety Follow-up Inspections        | 0   | 0     | 0     |
| Waste Tires Facilities Regular Inspections | 2   | 111   | 140   |
| Waste Tires Follow-up Inspections          | 0   | 12    | 25    |

## **Health Services Division**

### **Family Planning Clinic**

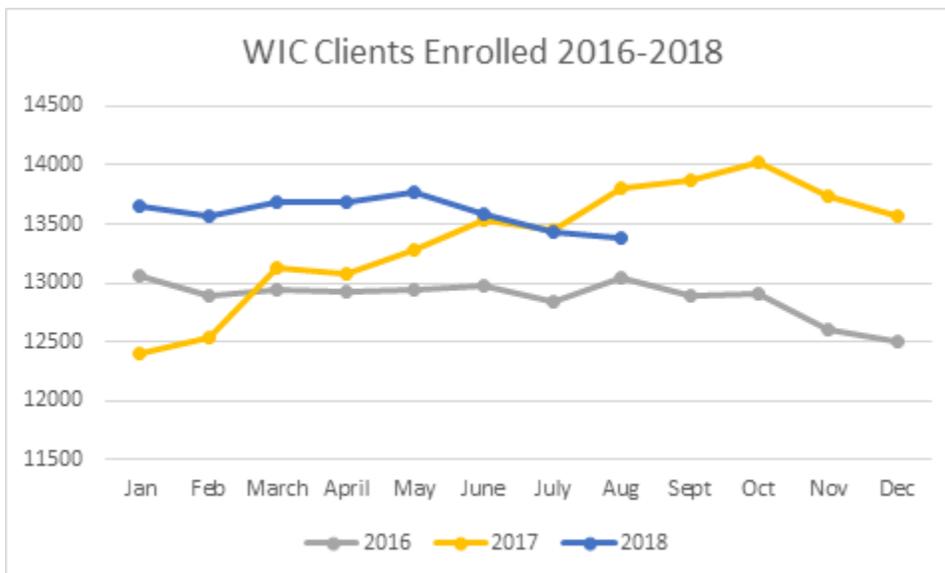
In September, Family Planning clinic served:

- 184 clients
  - 471 total clients served to date
- The Family Planning Program Manager met with the Coordinated Access to Community Health (CATCH) group on September 7 and gave an update on Family Planning Services, as well as other resources to improve community collaboration and increase referrals.



### Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

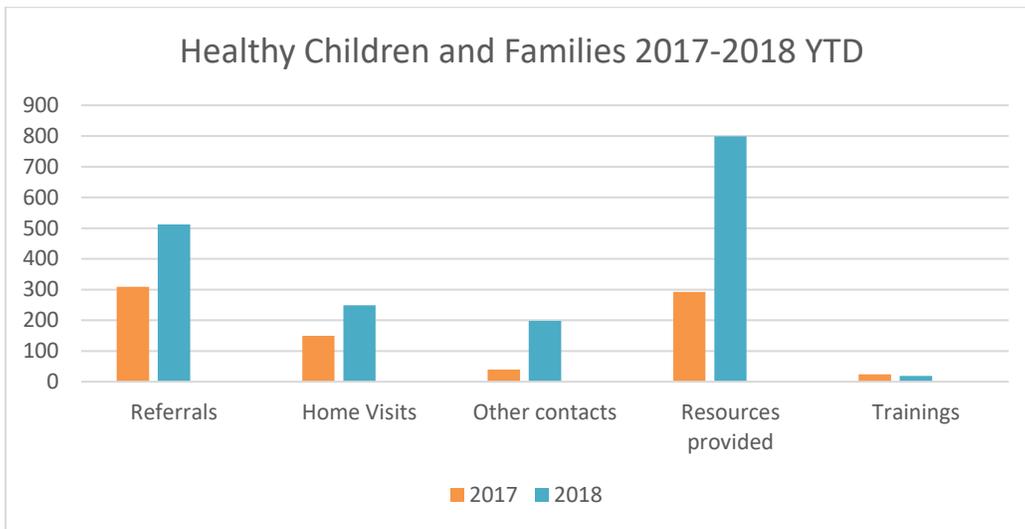
- August caseload was 13,385. Multiple efforts to reach those in our community who are eligible but not enrolled continue to be made, including radio advertisements, social media and our local “Refer a Friend” campaign, funded by the Colorado Health Foundation.
- Since launching April 23, 2018, our continued efforts to improve pregnancy-related depression screening and referrals for WIC participants have resulted in 1238 completed PHQ-2s and 68 referrals to AspenPointe for further evaluation and connections to meet their specific behavioral health needs. These activities positively impact the health and wellbeing of our clients and reduce the stigma of seeking behavioral health services.



### Healthy Children and Families (HCF)

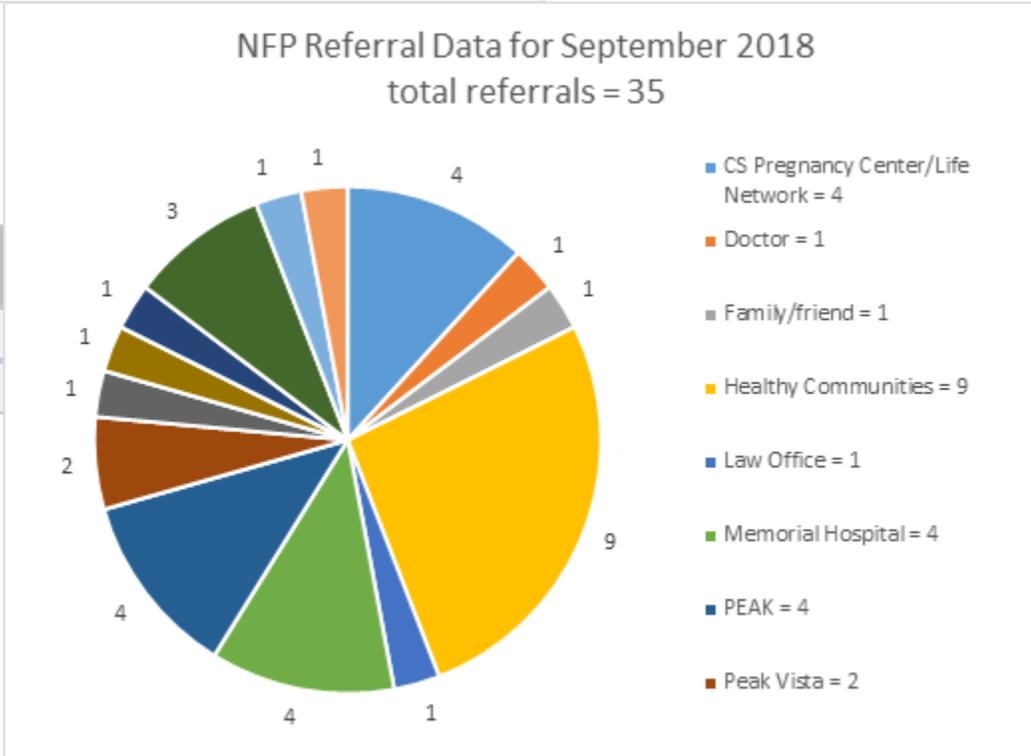
- Healthy Children and Families (HCF) continues to work with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide support and resources to the families of El Paso County.

- HCF is continuing work with DHS to develop a unit prioritizing at-risk children aged zero-to-three years. HCF would primarily work with families who have children in this age group, as well as medical issues for children of all ages.
- The Community Health Educator (CHE) attended the Early Childhood forum, received the 2018 Kids Count data for Colorado, and attended the Marijuana and Developing Brain training. The information from these forums will be shared in DHS staff trainings and used to inform the work HCF conducts in the field. The HCF Nurse Supervisor's last day will be October 5, 2018, and the CHE will continue the team's excellent work in the interim.
- In September, HCF completed:
  - 62 referrals from DHS staff
  - 28 home visit with assessments
  - 15 other contacts
  - 103 community resources were given to families



**Nurse-Family Partnership**

| Report Summary     | SEP 2018 |
|--------------------|----------|
| Completed Visits   | 242      |
| Client Graduations | 5        |



### Immunization/Travel Program (IZ)

- The IZ clinic has been working collaboratively with the El Paso County Safety Specialist to protect Security, Transportation, Parks, Facilities, and Environmental employees who may be exposed to bloodborne pathogens through their jobs. Immunization staff provided 49 vaccines to 28 El Paso County (EPC) employees at the final of three clinics to complete hepatitis A and hepatitis B series started last December. IZ staff also offered and administered 20 flu vaccines to these employees. Because this collaboration was so successful, the EPC Safety Specialist is hoping to offer additional clinics to new employees and those that were unable to attend for the first series.
- The IZ Travel Program continues to experience increased demand for the French-produced Stamaril yellow fever vaccine. The Stamaril Expanded Access Program (EAP) resulted from an interruption in the production of yellow fever vaccine in the United States in 2017 and was expected to end mid-2018. Due to a delay in transitioning to Sanofi Pasteur’s new state-of-the-art facility, the Stamaril EAP has been extended to mid-2019. The IZ travel clinic is the only clinic in the state outside of Denver authorized to give this vaccine, and has administered 380 Stamaril yellow fever vaccines since mid-September last year. This is an all-time record high for number of yellow fever vaccines given at our clinic in one year.
- One IZ nurse attended the three-day *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* course presented by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Denver. Faculty from the CDC and National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases presented the most up-to-date immunization information from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.
- Consistent with the Community Health Improvement Plan to prevent infectious diseases, IZ Clinic served 141 walk-in clients and four refugees in September in addition to the regularly scheduled clients.

**Year to Date Immunizations Data**

| Dates                  | Children Served | Adults Served | Travel Clients | Total Number Vaccines Given |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| September 2018         | 126             | 148           | 48             | 646                         |
| Through September 2018 | 1,152           | 1,095         | 657            | 5,897                       |
| January-December 2017  | 2,033           | 2,220         | 705            | 11,100                      |

