



Prevent • Promote • Protect

Director's Office

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Acronyms Used in August 2019 Board of Health Report

Acronym	Meaning	Acronym	Meaning
ACEs	Adverse Childhood Experiences	FSAG	Food Safety Advisory Group
CALPHO	Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials	HCC	Healthy Community Collaborative
CDC	Centers for Disease Control	HCP	A program for children and youth with special needs
CDEH	Colorado Directors of Environmental Health	IEPs	Individualized Education Programs
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	IGA	Intergovernmental Agreement
CFRT	Child Fatality Review Team	MAT	Medication-Assisted Therapy
CHE	Community Health Educator	MCH	Maternal Child Health
CHIP	Community Health Improvement Plan	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
CIIS	Colorado Immunization Information System	NFP	Nurse-Family Partnership
CNC	Colorado-National Collaborative	NME	Neurosequential Model in Education
CPAR	Coalition for Prevention Education and Recovery	PHQ	Patient Health Questionnaire
CSHA	Colorado Springs Housing Authority	PYD	Positive Youth Development
CTC	Communities That Care	RISE	Resilient, Inspired, Strong, Engaged
DHS	Department of Human Services	TEPP	Tobacco Education and Prevention
EH	Environmental Health	TSP	Teen Suicide Prevention
EHR	Electronic Health Record	VrDOT	Video-recorded Direct Observed Therapy
EPCPH	El Paso County Public Health	WIC	Women, Infants and Children
FCS	Fountain Community Services	YSUP	Youth Substance Use Prevention Planner
FDA	Food and Drug Administration		

To: Board of Health
From: Susan Wheelan, M.B.A. Public Health Director
Date: August 2019 (reflects July 2019)
Re: Director's Report

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Priority Areas:

El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) and all public health agencies in Colorado are required by Senate Bill 194 to complete a CHIP for the community each serves. The CHIP defines the vision for the health of the community through a collaborative process with over 60 partner agencies who participate in the Healthy Community Collaborative. Community input on these goals can be viewed on a data dashboard at www.ThrivingColorado.com.

These are EPCPH's activities:

Healthy Eating and Active Living

Reverse the upward trend of obesity across the lifespan by addressing its root causes

- On July 1, staff from the Office of Development and Strategic Initiatives alongside their consultant partner, Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc., hosted a presentation of findings from an audit of local policies and regulations impacting healthy food access for members and representatives of the Food Policy Advisory Board of the Pikes Peak Region, Colorado Springs City Council and the Board of County Commissioners. The audit is part of Phase II of a Food System Assessment and is meant to produce recommendations intended to reduce land use-related and other environmental barriers to healthy food access. The audit and the presentation of findings provide a valuable opportunity to increase community awareness of root causes of health equity and evidence-based solutions that address health equity, and to develop and strengthen relationships with elected officials and other policymakers around this issue.
- On July 11, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approved the Master Plan for Panorama Park. El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) has significantly engaged in this Southeast Colorado Springs initiative, and through the Resilient, Inspired, Strong, Engaged (RISE) Coalition and other community partnerships, led the gathering and integration of community feedback into the plans.
- The Women, Infant and Children (WIC) caseload for July was 12,809. This is an increase of 66 participants from the June caseload. WIC staff continue efforts to reach those in our community who are eligible but not enrolled through active outreach, the "Happy Birthday" campaign, social media and consistent follow-up with the online WIC referral form.

Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention

Decrease the incidence of poor mental health and substance use and misuse

- Maternal Child Health (MCH) and Colorado Springs D11 entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on the implementation of

- the Neurosequential Model in Education (NME) with elementary school teachers and staff. NME is a way to educate school staff about brain development and developmental trauma and to teach them how to apply that knowledge to their work with students in and outside the classroom, particularly those students with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).
- The Bullying and Youth Suicide Community Health Educator (CHE) provided training to 75 educators on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) at Skyview Middle School.
 - Youth Substance Use Prevention (YSUP) Planner and YSUP Community Health Educator (CHE) facilitated meetings for three strategy teams that are creating implementation and evaluation plans for the Fountain Valley Communities That Care (CTC) selected strategies. These community and societal-level strategies are intended to reduce risk factors commonly associated with underage use of substances, and increase protective factors for young people.
 - YSUP Planner attended a Steering Committee meeting for the Coalition for Prevention Education and Recovery (CPAR - formerly the opioid coalition). CPAR is under new leadership by new staff at Community Health Partnership and is tentatively planning to focus on community education, increasing access to Medication-Assisted Therapy (MAT), and overdose prevention.
 - YSUP Planner participated in a meeting of Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO) Substance Use Subcommittee. This subcommittee provides input to and advises CALPHO, and the CALPHO representative on the *Colorado Consortium for Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinating Committee* and any Consortium subcommittee as requested.
 - The Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) participated in the El Paso County Fair as a sponsor and vendor. The El Paso County Fair is an effective venue for TEPP to reach residents in rural El Paso County. TEPP promoted TobaccoFreeCO.org website to encourage attendees to visit the website to learn more about the burden of tobacco, vaping myths and facts and cessation resources if needed. TEPP also staffed a booth and provided additional tobacco education and cessation resources to attendees.
 - The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program works with pregnant and post-partum women to identify depression, refer for behavioral health treatment and reduce the stigma of seeking behavioral health services. WIC staff completed 224 two-question Patient Health Questionnaires (PHQ-2s) and 17 referrals to AspenPointe for further evaluation and connections to meet their specific behavioral health needs.

Surveillance, Epidemiology and Emergency Preparedness

Hepatitis A Outbreak (2018-2019)

- Through the end of July, El Paso County had 84 outbreak-related Hepatitis A cases. Other counties with outbreak cases include Denver (14 cases), Fremont (12 cases), Pueblo (2 cases), Douglas (1 case), and Arapahoe (1 case). EPCPH and

- partners have administered over 4,049 vaccines since the beginning of the outbreak in October 2018.
- This effort continues to be a formidable undertaking as all of Public Health's normal business functions in the Communicable Disease and Immunizations programs have continued during the time of the outbreak.

Rabies

- The Communicable Disease Program responded to 41 calls regarding possible rabies exposures. Twelve bats, six raccoons and two skunks were tested for rabies. Of those animals, one bat tested positive and two bats were untestable. Eleven people were recommended for post-exposure prophylaxis.

Foundational Public Health Services

Foundational public health services include: communicable disease prevention, investigation and control, environmental health, maternal, child, adolescent, and family health, chronic disease and injury prevention and behavioral health promotion, and clinical care.

- Environmental Health (EH) staff partnered with the Communicable Disease Team Epidemiologists to investigate a *Shigella* outbreak in a school setting. Recommendations were provided to improve: sanitization, disinfection, and hand washing procedures, and child and staff illness policies.
- The Laboratory performed 680 Bacteriological water tests, 408 for public water systems and 272 for private wells. Sixty-seven water samples were assayed for inorganic anions. The Laboratory staff has completed testing of the interface that connects the current laboratory information system with the new electronic health record, scheduled to be implemented on August 5 to streamline ordering and reporting of lab tests within the health department.

2018-2022 Strategic Plan Goals

The goals selected for each strategic plan topic area represent broad achievements EPCPH plans to reach by the end of 2022. The goals are expressed at a high-level in order to capture all possible forward movement across the agency and within specific programs. The strategies selected represent the most important ways in which EPCPH can focus its agency and programmatic objectives to meet each goal.

Workforce Development: strengthen EPCPH's workforce to improve public health and environmental quality.

- A YSUP CHE and TEPP CHE attended a multi-day training to become state-certified trainers for Positive Youth Development (PYD). The PYD training incorporates the development of skills, opportunities and authentic relationships, and is used to inform programs, practices and policies to help youth acquire the knowledge and skills they need to become healthy and productive adults. The training will be offered to school personnel and other youth-serving community entities.

- YSUP Planner (Co-chair of the Public Health Transformation Steering Committee) continues to participate in *Community of Practice* webinars to create common communications messaging in support of Public Health Transformation.
- All MCH Care Coordinators received training regarding Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), which provide specialized instruction and services to students with identified disabilities. This training will help care coordinators be better prepared to support families going through the IEP process or seeking additional educational supports for their child.
- EH staff members attended a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Training for Retail Food Inspection Standardization. This training educated staff on the new standardization process with the adoption of the FDA Food Code and offered situational examples.
- EH staff attended the Colorado Directors of Environmental Health (CDEH) quarterly meeting held in Glenwood Springs. The CDEH consists of Environmental Health (EH) Directors across Colorado that meet to discuss key topics, such as: Public Health Transformation, marijuana and hemp edibles in retail food, statewide data standardization (this is used to identify gaps in knowledge and interpretation among agencies and field staff), and methamphetamine-affected properties and regulatory clean-up requirements. These conversations add value to each agency by sharing strategies and methods to improve local public health efforts and ensure consistency.
- The Family Planning Program Manager and a Nurse Practitioner attended a Trauma Responsive Communication training in Denver on July 23rd. This training will help our healthcare providers be attentive in their communication with clients who have had traumatic experiences, which is best practice in clinical settings.

Technology, Informatics, Data Analysis: strengthen EPCPH’s capabilities to collect, analyze, share, and use data to make timely and information-driven decisions.

- EPCPH staff completed their final presentation for the Applied Informatics Team Training on the El Paso County Co-Responder Program. The aim of the grant program was to build the informatics capacity of El Paso County Public Health to address data access and system integration gaps for the Sheriff’s Office Co-Responder Unit. This six-month team training involved a series of webinars, conference calls and exercises intended to increase informatics skills among staff.
- The Immunization Clinic has been working for the last year with the Colorado Regional Health Information Organization and our electronic health record (EHR) to develop a Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS) interface. This interface sends the immunizations we chart in our EHR directly to the state immunization registry. The interface went “live” successfully in July. CIIS entry is a requirement for our agency, and this interface eliminates double-charting for our nurses and streamlines processes.
- Client consent and encounter forms were created for the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) team to facilitate use of the electronic health record (EHR) to document client visits and bill Medicaid. NFP nurses are training on the EHR currently.

This work was completed in-house and did not require additional EHR vendor costs.

Communication: strengthen EPCPH's capabilities to provide information on public health issues and public health functions to external partners, and strengthen EPCPH's internal communication capabilities.

- The Office of Communication disseminated the second edition of EPCPH's electronic newsletter, which provides timely information to internal and external partners on a variety of topics including agency highlights and accomplishments, emerging issues, and key community partnerships.
- The Office of Communication managed media inquiries pertaining to emerging issues including rabies, West Nile virus, vaccines, mosquitos and hand, foot, and mouth disease. The total estimated viewership for these television interviews is 153,017, and the estimated earned media value is \$15,878.42.
- The agency's website www.elpasocountyhealth.org had 9,741 new visitors in July, with 26,741 page views.
- The Tuberculosis program offered a presentation to Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Regional Centers for Disease Control (CDC) tuberculosis representative on El Paso County's activities, including innovations in video-recorded direct observed therapy (VrDOT)
- The Medical Director and Communicable Disease Epidemiologist offered a presentation to Evans Army Hospital on identifying measles, implementing infection control procedures, and communication procedures with other providers and Public Health.
- The Communicable Disease Program Manager met with the Military and Civilian Public Health Coalition to review interjurisdictional processes and resources for military public health.

Community Partnerships: develop and maintain strong relationships with key community partners to support public health or assure the provision of health care services.

- Teen Suicide Prevention (TSP) Planner met with members of the El Paso County Suicide Prevention Task Force Steering Committee to plan a suicide prevention summit to be held in January 2020 in support of the goals of the Colorado-National Collaborative (CNC). The CNC is a partnership of local, state, and national scientists and public health professionals working to identify, promote, and implement successful state- and community-based strategies for suicide prevention in Colorado. El Paso County is one of six counties across Colorado selected to participate in the CNC. EPCPH is working in collaboration with University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention, Silver Key, Inside/Out Youth Services, AspenPointe, and Family Care Center, among others, to advance community-wide suicide prevention efforts.
- TSP Planner attended a meeting of the Colorado Springs Firearm Safety Think Tank, convened by the Colorado Springs Branch of the University of Colorado

School of Medicine. This group meets monthly to identify ways to reduce firearm-related injuries and deaths in our community, particularly those related to suicide. Other partners to engage in these efforts and activities moving forward was discussed.

- TSP Planner met with the chair of the Future Board of Directors for Mental Health Colorado to discuss raising awareness of the organization in El Paso County and increasing engagement around destigmatizing mental health issues. EPCPH will work with local Mental Health Colorado members to promote upcoming Mental Health Colorado events in El Paso County.
- TSP Planner met with members of the Colorado Springs chapter of Moms Demand Action to assist with planning suicide prevention presentations for its October 2019 meeting. EPCPH will provide resources on suicide prevention and how to respond to behavioral health concerns.
- TSP Planner and Youth Health and Development Planner convened the Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) to review local motor vehicle related-fatalities and discuss opportunities for prevention at both local and state levels.
- YSUP CHE facilitated the monthly meeting of the Fountain Community Services (FCS) group. Led by a vision to provide a safe and supportive environment for all individuals, FCS convenes over 50 agencies monthly to share information and resources and to serve the Fountain Valley through the recognition, enhancement and strengthening of community resources.
- July marked the beginning of year two of an innovative grant to help residents in Colorado Springs Housing Authority (CSHA) facilities to quit smoking. This project was initiated in response to the 2018 Housing and Urban Development policy banning smoking in low-income public housing. TEPP staff met with CSHA to establish goals and objectives for year two.
- MCH Care Coordinators presented information on HCP care coordination services and referrals to more than 90 community partners including home health agencies, healthcare providers, registered dietitians, and military partners.
- An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) was approved between Department of Human Services (DHS) and EPCPH to support HCP care coordination services for DHS-involved families. This IGA builds on collaborations that MCH and DHS have been developing over more than two years.
- On July 9, staff from the Office of Development and Strategic Initiatives hosted the quarterly Healthy Community Collaborative (HCC) meeting. Thirty-nine individuals representing community partner agencies attended. UCHealth presented its Hospital Transformation Plan and EPCPH staff reviewed the Thriving Colorado Dashboard and associated measures on Healthy Eating, Active Living and Mental Health and Substance Abuse.
- A Lead Retail Food Environmental Health Specialist attended the monthly Colorado Restaurant Association Board meeting. Attendance at this meeting enhanced our stakeholder relationship with industry and allowed for advertisement of the quarterly Food Safety Advisory Group (FSAG) meeting that Environmental Health facilitates.
- El Paso County Public Health participated in the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO) Retail Food focus group. The purpose was to

seek input from consumers about a rating system that the state health department is proposing to use to communicate the overall results of restaurants' required health/safety inspections.

- The Immunizations clinic worked with several community partners to plan the annual Back-to-School Summerfest in southeast Colorado Springs. We partnered with Harrison D-2, the City of Colorado Springs and the YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region for the fifth consecutive year to plan the event, to be held on August 3 this year. The Immunization Clinic will be providing immunizations free of charge to eligible students. Family Planning had an information table, and Emergency Preparedness supplied vests and barricades to assist with the event.
- Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) joined El Paso County Public Health Maternal Child Health program at Peak Vista nurse group meetings to present information about our programs, develop community partnerships and increase referrals.

Funding for the Agency and Community Partners: increase funding for EPCPH from diverse sources to support core public health services, programmatic services, and innovative strategies, and provide technical support for funding to key community partners.

- The agency's Public Health Transformation Cost Assessment Tool was completed on time and submitted to CALPHO by the July 10 deadline. Cost assessment tools from all 53 Local Public Health Agencies will be used to advocate for additional public health funding in the state of Colorado.

Health Equity: increase public awareness of health equity issues, its systemic causes, and opportunities to foster health equity, and remove barriers to health care and community resources to improve health outcomes among health disparate populations.

- TEPP was a sponsor of the 2019 Colorado Springs PrideFest held on July 13-14 at America the Beautiful Park. PrideFest is an LGBT festival and parade. Final numbers have not been reported yet, but the event was projected to have record attendance this year, surpassing 50,000. TEPP had a booth at the event with tobacco cessation information and promotional items to encourage people to "take PRIDE in their health" by quitting. TEPP and other employees of the Health Promotion Division of EPCPH participated in the Pride parade. This is the fifth year TEPP has participated in this event.
- The Immunization clinic served 128 "walk-in" clients, and Family Planning clinic also served 82 "walk in" clients in the month of July. The Immunizations clinic streamlined their process to serve walk-in clients more efficiently. Offering the public walk-in clinic times helps to break down barriers and improve access to healthcare for those who have difficulty coordinating a traditional scheduled appointment.
- The Immunization clinic has seen a significant increase in medical record requests in July. On average, we receive 20 requests per month. In July, we fulfilled 90 requests for immunization records. These records help parents enroll their

- children in school and gives us the opportunity to offer services for clients whose immunization records need updating.
- Nurse Family Partnership received 27 new referrals, and made 138 nurse home visits during the month of July. Additional activities to encourage clients building healthy supportive relationships included structured playgroups and a client picnic/"splash day" which included 57 clients. We utilize the Southeast WIC clinic for the playgroups. Visiting clients in their home and hosting activities in areas close to clients' homes decreases barriers to care.