

To: Board of Health

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

Date: August 17, 2013 (Reflects July 2013)

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*

- The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Accreditation Committee will review the EPCPH Accreditation Site Visit Report on August 20, 2013. EPCPH will be notified of the Accreditation decision within two weeks of this review.
- The Healthy Community Collaborative (HCC) has selected its first two initiatives to pursue: school and workplace. Work plans are currently being developed to further define the projects and goals. The HCC is a stakeholder group of community partners, focusing community efforts and resources on evidence-based solutions to increase healthy eating and active living. The Healthy Community Collaborative goal is to stop the upward trend of overweight and obesity in El Paso County within the next five years and reverse the trend in the coming decade.

Deputy Director—*Dan Martindale*

Emergency Preparedness and Response:

EPR staff responded to flooding in Manitou Springs by staffing at the El Paso County Emergency Operations Center.

- EPR staff continued to support re-entry activities in the Black Forest burn area.
- EPR staff worked with City of Colorado Springs and the Medical Reserve Corps to restructure the Alternate Care and Shelter cache. This restructure effort was a result of lessons learned during the deployment of supplies in both the Waldo and Black Forest fire response.
- EPR epidemiologist assisted Teller County with investigation of an outbreak at a camp.
- Staff attended the regional staff meeting in Leadville. Topics for discussion included the new grant deliverables and the changes occurring at CDPHE office of emergency preparedness in the new reporting platform under Google.

- Staff attended the Health Care Coalition meeting in Woodland Park. A representative from the CDPHE gave a presentation on the role of public health in the emergency operations center.
- EPR staff attended the Cities Readiness Initiative meeting in Denver.
- Staff participated in the after actions meeting for Black Forest Fire conducted by the Medical Reserve Corps. This meeting was one of several that this team will be attending as the Health Department gathers data for an after actions report.

Office of Health Disparities Health Literacy (HL) Grant --

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

Communicable Disease (CD) - reflects CD investigative activities in July, 2013.

- Reportable infectious diseases: 39 infectious disease cases were reported and investigated: campylobacter (5), cryptosporidiosis (1), giardia (3), hepatitis A (2), chronic hepatitis B (2), Legionellosis (2), pertussis (7), Salmonella (11), and viral meningitis (6).
- One of the hepatitis A cases in July was a secondary case (household member of a June case) from the outbreak related to Costco frozen berries. This brings the El Paso County total of outbreak-related cases to 11, more than in any other county in Colorado.
- Possible foodborne illness complaints: 14
- CD Program investigated one outbreak: Salmonella, restaurant-related
- CD Program responded to 43 calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals, or other rabies-related concerns. From the animals involved in those inquiries, 22 were tested for rabies (10 skunks, 9 bats, 3 raccoons), and all were negative.
- Jefferson County reported a rabies positive fox, which was originally found in southwest El Paso County. This is El Paso County's first positive rabies test this year and the first in a terrestrial animal found west of the I-25 corridor.

Tuberculosis (TB) – reflects TB Program activities for July, 2013:

- New active TB cases investigated: 0
- New suspect active cases investigated: 1
- Contact investigations ongoing: 6
- Contacts evaluated/tested: 52
- TB Skin tests done related to contact investigations: 0
- TB Blood tests (Quantiferon) done related to contact investigations: 52
- Cases on Direct Observed Therapy (DOT): 10
- Cases on Direct Observed Preventive Therapy (DOPT): 10
- Total DOT/DOPT visits: 72
- Latent TB Infection (LTBI) cases under treatment: 17
- Refugee and class B immigrant TB evaluations: 15

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

Black Forest Fire Response and Recovery

- Environmental Health Specialists, working in coordination with members of the Colorado Division of Water Resources, surveyed 555 water wells for damage to assess potential impacts to aquifers. Of the 555 wells surveyed 102 had severe damage to the well leaving the well open to potential contamination.

We worked with community volunteers to temporarily seal/cap all 102 wells, preventing contamination to the aquifers.

- A streamlined process to evaluate on-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) potentially impacted by the fire and/or heavy equipment has been established. The process and evaluation checklist is available on our website. OWTS evaluations can be conducted by any licensed OWTS installer, system cleaner or registered engineer.
- Director and managers continue to attend community meetings regarding safe debris removal and damaged water wells and on-site wastewater treatment systems.
- Staff met with Regional Building Department staff to discuss electronic communication for rebuild permits and our review of the OWTS serving the dwelling. Outcomes from the meeting will improve communication between the two agencies, which will advance our customer service.

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: 449
- RFE follow-up inspections: 52
- RFE plan reviews – new construction: 8
- RFE plan reviews – remodel: 1
- RFE HACCP plan review: 1
- RFE pre-operational inspections: 31
- RFE complaint investigations: 21
- RFE compliance proceedings: 2
- 13 students took advantage of our online Basic Food Safety class.
- 13 students took our onsite Basic Food Safety Class.

On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) and Groundwater Protection Program

Environmental health specialists completed the following activities to promote proper design, siting and installation of on-site wastewater systems (OWS) to protect drinking water originating from groundwater:

- OWTS final inspections: 25
- OWTS soil and site evaluations: 32
- OWTS new permits issued: 19
- OWTS repair permits issued: 27
- OWTS design reviews: 22
- Pumper truck inspections: 4
- Complaint investigations: 2

Water Recreation Program

Environmental health specialists completed the following activities to prevent the spread of disease in pools and spas.

- Regular inspections of pools/spas: 78
- Follow-up inspections of pools/spas: 8
- Pre-operational inspections: 5

Air Quality Control Program

- Staff investigated five complaints of excessive smoke, dust or odor.
- Issued four construction activity permits to assure that contractors have approved fugitive dust control plans.

Child care Inspection Program

- Regular inspections: 11
- Follow up inspections: 2
- Complaint investigations: 1

Body Art Safety Program

Environmental health specialists completed the following activities to prevent the spread of disease at body art facilities:

- Regular inspections: 1
- Preoperational inspections: 2
- Complaint investigations: 1
- Body Artists Issued Infectious Disease Control Certificates: 2
- The division has initiated a Body Art Advisory Group. Six individuals representing four El Paso County body art establishments were in attendance, as well as the four members of the division's Body Art Establishment Team.

Drinking Water Program

- One sanitary survey was conducted on a small public drinking water system. A sanitary survey is an on-site review of the drinking water system's water source, facilities, equipment, operation, and maintenance. Surveys point out sanitary deficiencies and assess a system's capability to supply safe drinking water.
- Director and manager attended a presentation and open house at Cherokee Metro District. The presentation focused on the District's proposed water service expansion and latest developments.

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

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP):

- Colorado Coordination team reviewed the Nurse Family Partnership Performance Improvement Plan and the progress to date. The Colorado Coordination team has communicated full support of the Nurse Family Partnership team and El Paso County Public health leadership in continuing current efforts in addressing nurse retention and caseload.
- Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs met with NFP staff to share information on the program and increase collaboration.
- NFP Supervisor teleconferenced with Boulder county NFP Program Manager to collaborate on improving transfer procedure within the state for high risk transfer clients and to promote continuity of care.
- Nurse Home Visitor facilitated the Community Advisory Board meeting to promote continued program support and collaboration within the community
- Rocky Mountain Health Plans Foundation submitted a grant request for Baby and Me Tobacco Free (BMTF) Program. If approved, NFP will act as subcontractor to offer BMTF to our NFP clients.

Assuring Better Childhood Development (ABCD) Developmental Screening:

- After the first ABCD stakeholder's meeting in June, the Public Health Nurse continues making contacts with additional agencies, therapists and individuals. Public Health nurse is also participating as a member of the newly formed Autism Taskforce.

Child Health/Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP):

- Obesity prevention efforts included work on a healthy food resource guide for child care providers and organizing obesity prevention trainings for child care providers in July. ECOP staff participated in the state-wide Healthy Child Care Colorado meeting in Denver as well as the Childcare Learning Circle with the CDPHE.
- The Community Health Educator met with the newly-formed Messaging and Steering committees for the Healthy Community Collaborative (HCC) in July.

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

- Currently the HCP caseload is 53 children. The MCH administrative coordinator continues in her orientation for her new role doing HCP non-medical care coordination activities. She is also attending the biweekly Insight computer training sessions. HCP staff attended the Behavioral Health Summit Follow-up and Care Coordination bimonthly meeting organized by the Community Health Partnership/Regional Care Collaborative Organization.

Immunization/Travel Program:

- Program manager provided a briefing on Public Health Immunizations Clinic services as well as materials covering reputable vaccine information sources to eight employees in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families section at the Department of Human Services.
- In July, tuberculosis screening walk-in hours were on Tuesdays only. Immunizations nurses placed and read 80 tests.
- Tetanus vaccination clients from the Black Forest Fire continue to trickle in. 761 doses were administered through July.

Clinical Services: Services Provided

- 390 qualifying visits were provided services of the following: pregnancy screening counseling, annuals, and initials visits.
- 58 males were provided services that were qualifying.
- 420 total patients were provided services.

Women, Infants and Children:

- June caseload: 14, 986
- FY14 funding contract has been received.

Office of Communication—*Susan Wheelan, MBA, Communication Director*

Tobacco Education Prevention and Partnership (TEPP)

- Participated in the Youth Engagement Round Table (YERT) meeting. YERT is a Colorado-based group of individuals who are working with youth on tobacco prevention. El Paso County was highlighted at this meeting and TEPP staff gave an overview of the work that is being done with youth. Topics included: youth goals, youth training, lessons learned, and barriers. We were given feedback from the group after the presentation that will help us move forward and overcome barriers.
- Manned the booth at the El Paso County Fair. Tobacco cessation tools such as: Quit Kits, CO QuitLine branded items including mints, toothpicks, brochures, magnets, chap sticks and cards were distributed.
- Took part in the Youth Resource Fair sponsored by the El Paso County Department of Human Services. The purpose of the fair was to inform teens of the resources that are available to them in El Paso County. Participants were able to see a lung demonstration and learn about the dangers of tobacco use.
- Tobacco was first named a “Winnable Battle” by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and El Paso County Public Health followed suit in their commitment to reducing tobacco use. While EPCPH often refers clients to the Colorado

QuitLine, which offers a free telephone coaching program and nicotine replacement therapy for resident tobacco users, the process is not standardized among all programs and staff. As part of this agency's quality improvement efforts, QuitLine trainings and tobacco cessation trainings will be offered for program managers and eventually all health services staff.

- Tobacco Cessation materials from the CO QuitLine and CO QuitMobile.org presented to staff at Associates in Women's Care OBGYN. They serve approximately 400 patients.
- TEPP staff met with the Youth Coalition Technical Assistant from State of Colorado Tobacco Education and Prevention Program (STEPP). Topics discussed included budget for youth events and the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be used with the schools and with The Boys and Girls Club.
- TEPP staff presented adolescent tobacco cessation materials and training to a therapist at Bev Hawke and Associates. This office provides addiction counseling to Colorado Springs youth ages 11-19 and over half of their patients are on Medicaid, Colorado Health Care Plus (CHCPlus) or a sliding scale fee based on income.

Communication Support

Print News Media

07.04.13 – The Gazette, “County finds some Black Forest wells damaged.” Interview provided by Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Environmental Health Division Director. Estimated daily circulation: 77,000.

07.17.13 – The Gazette, “Repairing fire-damaged wells a big job in Black Forest.” Interview provided by Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Environmental Health Division Director. Estimated daily circulation: 77,000.

07.23.13 – The Gazette, “County expecting grants to prepare for disasters.” Interview provided by Jill Law, R.N., B.S.N., M.H.A., Public Health Director. Estimated daily circulation: 77,000.

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.

07.03.13 – KRDO (ABC) News Channel 13 at 10 p.m. Public Health to survey wells damaged by Black Forest fire. Interview provided by Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Environmental Health Division Director. Viewership: 15,537. Estimated Value: \$1,235.

07.03.13 – KOAA (NBC) News 5 at noon. Public Health to survey wells damaged by Black Forest fire. Interview provided by Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Environmental Health Division Director. Viewership: 10,445. Estimated Value: \$331.

07.03.13 KXRM (Fox) News at 9 p.m. Public Health to survey wells damaged by the Black Forest fire. Interview provided by Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Environmental Health Division Director. Viewership: 32,986. Estimated Value: \$3,002.

07.08.13 – KRDO (ABC) News channel 13 at 5, 6 and 10 p.m. Public health to survey wells damaged by Black Forest fire. Interview provided by Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Environmental Health Division Director. Viewership: 13,413. Estimated Value: \$4,596.

07.11.13 – KOAA (NBC) News 5 at 5 and 6:30 p.m. Public health to survey wells damaged by Black Forest fire. Interview provided by Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Environmental Health Division Director. Viewership: 39,735. Estimated Value: \$3,236.

07.16.13 – KRDO (ABC) News Channel 13 at 5 p.m. Follow up on well damage in black forest fire. Interview provided by Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Environmental Health Division Director. Viewership: 7,173. Estimated value: \$385.

07.17.13 – KRDO (ABC) News Channel 13 at 5 p.m. West Nile Virus. Interview provided by Lee Griffen, Environmental Health Supervisor. Viewership: 2,085. Estimated value: \$266.

07.17.13 – KRDO (ABC) News Channel 13 at 6 p.m. Tips for safe cleanup of debris in Black Forest Fire after flooding. Interview provided by Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Environmental Health Division Director. Viewership: 15,759; Estimated value: \$1,128.

07.24.13 – KRDO (ABC) News Channel 13 at 5 p.m. County to receive grant money for emergency preparedness. Interview provided by Lisa Powell, M.P.S., Emergency Preparedness and Response Program Manager. Viewership: 15,759. Estimated value: \$564.

07.30.13 - KOAA (NBC) News 5 at 10 p.m. Public Health urges parents to get children immunized before school year. Viewership: 66,826. Estimated value: \$5,463. Interview provided by Jill Law, R.N., B.S.N., M.H.A., Public Health Director.

Radio

07.12.13 KVOR 740 AM Radio – Public health to survey wells damaged by Black Forest fire. Interview provided by Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Environmental Health Division.

News Releases

07.03.13 – Public Health Staff Conducting Surveys of Water Well Damage in Black Forest

07.11.13 – Public Health Staff Continue to Survey Damage to Water Wells in Black Forest

Social Media/Online digital media

- News and information provided on our Facebook page and Twitter feeds included: DAC North Field Office information; water test kit pick up and drop off info; Black Forest well information and prevention tips; LiveWell Colorado; Tobacco Education and Prevention information; back-to-school immunizations.
- Facebook: 255 “likes; Twitter: 807 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 July 1 and 30, our office received and answered approximately 115 emails through our website.

Website statistics

According to Google Analytics, www.elpasocountyhealth.org had 9,886 unique visitors to the site with 20,999 pageviews (from July 1 to August 1, 2013). Of the total visitors, more than 70 percent were new visitors. The top 5 most visited pages were birth and death records, WIC, immunizations, location/directions, and retail food establishments.