### Acronyms Used in November 2019 Board of Health Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2GO/2GEN</td>
<td>2Generation Opportunities Project</td>
<td>HCP</td>
<td>A program for children and youth with special needs</td>
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<td>ACEs</td>
<td>Adverse Childhood Experiences</td>
<td>MCH</td>
<td>Maternal Child Health</td>
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<td>B/YS</td>
<td>Bullying and Youth Suicide</td>
<td>NFP</td>
<td>Nurse-Family Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATCH</td>
<td>Coordinated Access to Community Health</td>
<td>PASCO</td>
<td>Personal Assistance Services of Colorado</td>
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<td>CCHA</td>
<td>Colorado Community Health Alliance</td>
<td>PHQ</td>
<td>Patient Health Questionnaire</td>
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<td>CDPHE</td>
<td>Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment</td>
<td>PPBC</td>
<td>Pikes Peak Breastfeeding Coalition</td>
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<td>CHE</td>
<td>Community Health Educator</td>
<td>PPLD</td>
<td>Pikes Peak Library District</td>
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<td>CHIP</td>
<td>Community Health Improvement Plan</td>
<td>PYD</td>
<td>Positive Youth Development</td>
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<td>CNC</td>
<td>Colorado-National Collaborative</td>
<td>SEL</td>
<td>Social-Emotional Learning</td>
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<td>COPIC</td>
<td>Medical Liability Insurer</td>
<td>TEPP</td>
<td>Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership</td>
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<td>CPCD</td>
<td>Community Partnership for Child Development</td>
<td>TSP</td>
<td>Teen Suicide Prevention</td>
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<td>CTC</td>
<td>Communities that Care</td>
<td>WIC</td>
<td>Women, Infants and Children</td>
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<td>ECOP</td>
<td>Early Childhood Obesity Prevention</td>
<td>YHD</td>
<td>Youth Health and Development Planner</td>
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<td>EPCPH</td>
<td>El Paso County Public Health</td>
<td>YSUP</td>
<td>Youth Substance Prevention Planner</td>
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To: Board of Health  
From: Susan Wheelan, M.B.A. Public Health Director  
Date: November 2019 (reflects October 2019)  
Re: Director’s Report

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Priority Areas:
El Paso County Public Health 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

- The Women, Infant and Children (WIC) caseload for October was 12,985. This is an increase of 33 participants from the September caseload.
- Maternal Child Health (MCH) Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP) Community Health Educator (CHE) mailed training flyers to Early Childhood Education (ECE) providers in targeted zip codes and partnered with Environmental Health to reach ECE Centers through an email blast. This outreach included a flyer for the ECOP Moving into Wellness (MIW) training. Enrollment for this training was subsequently filled with 18 enrollees, including ECE center directors and providers from USAA and Fort Carson. MIW training provides free contact hours for childcare providers and ongoing technical assistance to help centers develop policies centered on breastfeeding-friendly practices and incorporation of physical activity.

Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention
Decrease the incidence of poor mental health and substance use and misuse

- The WIC program works with pregnant and post-partum women to screen for depression, refer for behavioral health treatment and reduce the stigma of seeking behavioral health services. WIC staff completed 175 two-question Patient Health Questionnaires (PHQ-2s) and made five referrals to AspenPointe for further evaluation and connections to meet their specific behavioral health needs.
- MCH Bullying & Youth Suicide (B/YS) CHE completed a training on Developing Resilience for parents and administrative staff at Manitou Springs School District 14.
- Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) participated in the Partners for Health Choices Coalition in Manitou Springs. TEPP provided information regarding vaping, resources for talking to youth about vaping, “Know the Facts” vaping posters, and tobacco-free schools signs to be posted at D14 schools.
• TEPP was a exhibitor at the University of Colorado - Colorado Springs’s (UCCS) Health and Wellness Fair. Tobacco cessation resources and information on vaping were provided to over 300 students and faculty members at UCCS.
• TEPP Program Manager serves on the Adult Advisory Board for UpRISE, a statewide youth tobacco social justice movement. UpRISE held its first annual youth summit in Colorado Springs and approximately 70 youth attended the event. Youth Advisory Board members collaborated with Adult Advisory Board members to provide education and resources to peers throughout the state.

**Surveillance, Epidemiology and Emergency Preparedness**

• Emergency Preparedness and Response Team (EPR) attended Community Healthcare Planning and Response to Disasters training. This course provided comprehensive planning tools to help mitigate impacts on communities during large-scale incidents and examined the need for collaboration among responders in community-wide disaster response.
• Emergency Preparedness and Response Program Manager attended the Project Public Health Ready meeting in Columbus, Ohio. There she served on a team reviewing best practices across the nation for public health preparedness.

**Hepatitis A Outbreak (2018-2019)**

• El Paso County Public Health Hepatitis A team received State recognition for its response to the outbreak. The Shining Star Award was presented to the team at CDPHE’s Annual Partners meeting on October 30, 2019.
• El Paso County Public Health conducted 105 vaccine outreach events from October 2018 through October 2019. In coordination with community partners including the El Paso Sheriff’s Office, Penrose St. Francis parish nurses, and UC Health/Memorial Emergency Department, EPCPH has administered 6,357 Hepatitis A vaccine. There were 117 positive Hepatitis A cases through the end of October.
• For additional details on the outbreak and response, see infographic appended to the end of this report.

**Influenza Season 2018-2019**

• Influenza surveillance for the 2019-2020 season began on September 29, 2019. As of November 9, six people had been hospitalized for influenza in El Paso County.

**Rabies**

• The communicable disease program responded to 23 calls regarding possible rabies exposures. Four 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.

Laboratory
- Performed 596 Bacteriological water tests, 345 for public water systems and 251 for private wells. 58 water samples were assayed for inorganic anions.
- The Laboratory Team and Envision Connect (Environmental Health data system contractor) completed lab staff training to utilize the electronic data management process for water sample testing. The Laboratory is transitioning both public and private water samples test documentation to an electronic format. The next step will be to design an online requisition form that clients can access on the EPCPH website.

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.
- Regional Epidemiologist and Regional EPR Coordinator developed and conducted a measles investigation and response tabletop exercise in Lake County. Participants of the exercise included the Leadville Police Chief, representatives from Lake County finance, a member of the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, the entire Public Health staff, the fire chief, and the county and regional emergency managers.
- On October 2-4, the Family Planning Program Manager attended the COPIC conference in Denver. Information was obtained regarding infection control practices, human trafficking training, risk management, patient safety, and incident reporting. Each of these topics are applicable to the work that is done in the Family Planning clinical setting, and information obtained during the conference will be considered in amending some Family Planning procedures.
- The Family Planning Program Manager subsequently coordinated a human trafficking training on October 23 presented by the Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking. The training focused on sex and labor trafficking, and the signs to look for in our clientele. The training also provided new resources available to the team.
- The Colorado Springs Police Department conducted a training for Communicable Disease and Tuberculosis teams on human trafficking in El Paso County and steps health care providers can take when encountering patients who may be at risk for trafficking.
• HCP Care Coordinators attended the Arc ‘Transitions to Adulthood’ presentation where they had the opportunity to network and learn about available resources in our community for children and youth with special healthcare needs that are transitioning into adulthood.
• YSUP Community Health Educator (CHE) and TEPP CHE provided a Positive Youth Development (PYD) Training for fifteen (15) internal and external community partners. PYD incorporates the development of skills, opportunities and authentic relationships, and is used to inform programs, practices and policies to help young people reach their full potential.
• Communicable Disease provided a measles training for EPCPH staff to provide context for immunization recommendations and information about public health response to suspect cases.

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

• YSUP Planner and CHE worked with EPCPH’s Population Epidemiologist to develop the Fountain Valley Healthy Youth Development profile (a Thriving Colorado dashboard that is only accessible by the Fountain Valley Communities that Care (CTC) coalition) to track changes and trends in the health and behavior outcomes of middle and high school students in the Fountain Valley, as well as the prioritized risk and protective factors. Data was taken from 2017 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey reports and from public health data sources and includes substance use, violence, mental health and protective factors, as well as community economic indicators.

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 managed media inquiries pertaining to emerging issues including vaping and tobacco, influenza, suicide prevention, and body art. The total estimated viewership for these television interviews is 170,898 and the estimated earned media value is $51,841.26.
• The Immunization Program Manager completed an interview with the Colorado Springs Gazette on flu season and the importance of getting vaccinated. The Gazette reaches an integrated audience in print and online of 122,200 daily readers.
• The agency’s website www.elpasocountyhealth.org had 9,165 new visitors in October, with 25,907 page views.
• Our Office of Communication helped celebrate the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) “A Night with the Stars” 20th year celebration of NFP services in Colorado. Governor Jared Polis made a proclamation that October 22, 2019 will be recognized as Nurse-Family Partnership Anniversary Day for the state of Colorado. Nurse-Family Partnership is in each of Colorado’s 64 counties. More than 28,000 first time moms have been served in Colorado since 2000.
• Our Immunizations Program Manager conducted several media interviews with local news stations, a radio station, and The Gazette on the severity of influenza disease and the importance of flu vaccination.

• Teen Suicide Prevention (TSP) Planner and Youth Health and Development (YHD) Planner presented to the El Paso County Board of Health on the Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup, the systems-level approach to prevention, evidence-based strategies promoted by the Workgroup, the impact on the community, strategies we have shared with other communities.

• YSUP Planner provided marijuana education to 6-8 grade students at Fox Meadow Middle School (D2).

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

• We hosted our quarterly Food Safety Advisory Group meeting. Restaurant owners have stated that that these meetings continue to be positive relationship-building events with EPCPH and the retail food industry in the Pikes Peak Region.

• Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinators attended the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response 2019 Annual Partners Meeting. This two-day meeting facilitated discussions between state, regional, and local partners focused on this year’s strategic plan.

• Emergency Preparedness and Response Program Manager participated in the Colorado Healthcare Coalition Council where she represented healthcare in the South Central region. The Council focuses on healthcare coalitions throughout Colorado to improve readiness across the healthcare continuum.

• Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinators hosted a meet and greet with the new Medical Directors for the Medical Reserve Corps. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss how volunteers are used in a public health emergency and culminated in the Directors getting a chance to see the medical cache used for alternate care facilities.

• The Immunization Program Manager spoke to the school nurse group from rural El Paso County on the importance of accurate immunization data to ensure their students’ vaccines are up-to-date. Future vaccine outreach in these areas was also discussed.

• The Immunization Program Manager attended the School Nurse Workshop to connect with school nurses across El Paso County. The manager was able to answer immunization questions and provide resources for nurses to help improve immunization rates in their school districts.

• The Immunization Program Manager was a panelist for the Pikes Peak Flu and Immunization Coalition. School-required vaccines and flu vaccination were discussed. EPCPH shared past experiences with vaccine outreach as a strategy to improve immunization rates in underserved areas.

• The Family Planning Program Manager attended the monthly CATCH (Coordinated Access to Community Health) meeting with the Health Services
Division Director on October 9th to coordinate safety net care for individuals without health insurance.

- 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.

- TSP Planner and YHD Planner led the October Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup meeting with over 30 partners in attendance. The agenda included a presentation on lethal means safety from a pediatrician with Children’s Hospital Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Opportunities for reducing risk of suicide and safeguarding the home were discussed.

- 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. We discussed continued data collection and preparation for future action regarding firearm-related suicides.

- YHD Planner facilitated three multidisciplinary local child fatality case reviews and provided data and prevention recommendations to local, state, and national partners.

- TEPP attended Inside Out Youth Service’s UpRise Coalition meeting to discuss tobacco and vaping with youth in our community. UpRise is a statewide youth tobacco social justice movement that provides funding opportunities to youth groups to work on tobacco prevention in their respective communities. TEPP highlighted current local policy initiatives and interest in youth involvement and support.

- TEPP hosted the Tobacco-Free Alliance of El Paso County bi-monthly meeting to highlight current policy initiatives, including raising the minimum legal age for tobacco sales and tobacco retail licensing. The meeting also highlighted youth-led initiatives to support local policy through involvement at a local community center.

- TEPP created a partnership with the social worker at the Pikes Peak Library District to connect patrons to tobacco cessation resources.

- TEPP met with Academy District 20 principals to discuss the youth vaping epidemic and provide resources to educators and administrators. Vaping information and alternatives to suspension were discussed.

- B/YS CHE formed a new partnership with a UCCS Administrator to collaborate on the incorporation of trauma-responsive material in the Teacher Education & Licensure degree program. B/YS CHE also partnered with Penrose Hospital’s Injury and Youth Violence expert, in conjunction with Peaceful Households and representatives from several school districts, to develop Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) training for educators.

- B/YS CHE represented El Paso County Public Health on the Colorado Springs School District 11 Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Committee, where
Brainwise is being considered as the SEL curriculum to be implemented throughout the districts’ schools next school year.

- The MCH team continued to engage with community partners, specifically outreaching or participating in the following groups in October: Fountain Community Services monthly meeting, the Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup, Alliance for Kids and the 2GO/2GEN project, the Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD), the Pikes Peak Breastfeeding Coalition (PPBC), Inside Out Youth Services, Fostering Hope Foundation, the Colorado Community Health Alliance (CCHA), the Respite Coalition Committee, the Community Partnership for Child Development (CPCD) Head Start, Team Select Home Health Agency, Personal Assistance Services of Colorado (PASCO), WIC, and multiple school districts throughout the county.

- EPCPH staff (from Environmental Health and Development and Strategic Initiatives) have been participating in the *Your El Paso Master Plan* update for the County. Public Health offers ex-officio support and subject matter expertise to the appointed advisory board. The board is currently in the process of reviewing existing conditions and small area plans and policies to inform visioning and policy development for the plan. Public Health’s representation in the process reflects the agency’s objective to participate on key community collaborations, coalitions, committees, or other work groups that can influence health outcomes and policy, including those that address the social determinants of health. Next steps in the process include engagement of staff, the public, and the advisory board in visioning exercises to take place in December.

- EPCPH submitted a progress report to the Colorado Health Foundation at the end of October for the first year (of three) of Healthy Places Southeast Colorado Springs project. Highlights from the first year include regular events at the Mission Trace Hub with substantive community participation, leveraged funding and technical assistance, increased civic engagement, and business and development plans created for the Hub and Solid Rock Community Development Corporation. EPCPH maintains a largely administrative and fiduciary role and is supporting the outcomes measurement component of the project. The Healthy Places project is reflective of several strategic objectives: increasing access to safe places for physical activity, increasing social connectedness, and providing technical support for funding to key community partners.

- The Lead Communicable Disease Epidemiologist and the Medical Director conducted an influenza training for UCHealth Urgent Care facilities and Evans Army Hospital.

- Communicable Disease presented to school nurses on infectious disease in schools and recommendations for managing outbreaks in school settings.

**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.
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.

- The Immunization clinic served 284 “walk-in” clients, and Family Planning clinic also served 50 “walk in” clients in the month of October. The Immunizations clinic conducted a flu clinic for children and adults at the SE WIC clinic in October and will offer a flu clinic again in November at this location. Offering the public walk-in clinic times at different locations helps to break down barriers and improve access to healthcare for those who have difficulty coordinating appointments.

- The Immunizations clinic has provided 10,335 vaccines from January through October 2019, an increase of 1,374 vaccines (over 15%) above the number of vaccines given in the entire year of 2018.
Hepatitis A Outbreak in El Paso County

In October 2018, a case of hepatitis A was reported in El Paso County in a person experiencing homelessness and substance use issues. This was the first case in Colorado’s hepatitis A outbreak, which is now entering its second year and includes at least 11 counties.

From the start, it has been a truly collaborative intra- and inter-agency response. Internally, Public Health’s core team of epidemiologists, communicable disease, immunizations, emergency preparedness and response, leadership, and communications staff have worked tirelessly to respond to this outbreak. Externally, Public Health has leveraged and built innovative partnerships with community, health care, and governmental partners to provide education and vaccination to targeted groups.

Our counterparts across the nation have complimented our County on the response efforts we have put in place, especially the collaborative relationships we have developed with law enforcement, emergency departments and respite care. Most recently, our agency was honored to receive the Shining Stars Award at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s 2019 Annual Partners Meeting. El Paso County Public Health is recognized for organizing a response that set a strong framework, and we are sought out by partners throughout the state for our expertise.

Over 15 Community Partner Organizations
Over 100 Outreach Events
Over 6,000 Vaccines Given
123 Cases

719-578-3199
www.elpasocountyhealth.org