



Prevent • Promote • Protect

Director's Office

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

Acronym	Meaning	Acronym	Meaning
ACEs	Adverse Childhood Experiences	FCS	Fountain Community Services
BYS	Bullying and Youth Suicide	HCP	A program for children and youth with special needs
CD	Communicable Disease	MCH	Maternal Child Health
CDC	Centers for Disease Control	NFP	Nurse-Family Partnership
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	OWTS	On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems
CFRT	Child Fatality Review Team	PCRLS	Promoting Connectedness, Resiliency, and Lifeskills
CHE	Community Health Educator	PFOA/ PFAS	Perfluorinated Compounds
CHIP	Community Health Improvement Plan	PHiR	Public Health in the Rockies Conference
CNC	Colorado-National Collaborative	PHQ	Patient Health Questionnaire
COFM	Colorado Commission on Family Medicine	PPHR	Project Public Health Ready
CPAR	Coalition for Prevention, Addiction and Recovery	PYD	Positive Youth Development
CPOW	Colorado Professionals in Onsite Wastewater	RISE	Resilient, Inspired, Strong, Engaged
DHS	Department of Human Services	SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
ECOP	Early Childhood Obesity Prevention	TB	Tuberculosis
EH	Environmental Health	TEPP	Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership
ECPH	El Paso County Public Health	TSP	Teen Suicide Prevention
EPR	Emergency Preparedness and Response	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

WIC	Women, Infants and Children
YHD	Youth Health and Development Planner
YSUP	Youth Substance Use Prevention Planner

**To:** Board of Health  
**From:** Susan Wheelan, M.B.A., Public Health Director  
**Date:** September 2019 (reflects August 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](http://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

- Maternal Child Health (MCH) Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP) Community Health Educator (CHE) conducted a *Moving Into Wellness* training with 19 childcare providers at the Pikes Peak Library in Fountain. This training helps enhance skills around integration of physical activity and improving breastfeeding accommodations. Altogether, these childcare providers care for 262 infants and toddlers in our community. Seven directors or home care providers were identified and agreed to ongoing technical assistance and additional coaching with the ECOP CHE.
- The Women, Infant and Children (WIC) caseload for August was 12,929. This is an increase of 120 participants from July's 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

- MCH Bullying and Youth Suicide (BYS) CHE conducted a training on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) with Skyview Middle School, which was attended by 80 staff members and educators at the school.
- Youth Substance Use Prevention (YSUP) Planner and YSUP CHE facilitated meetings for three strategy teams that are creating implementation and evaluation plans for the Fountain Valley Communities That Care's 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 Community Education work group meeting for the Coalition for Prevention, Addiction and Recovery (CPAR- formerly the opioid coalition). CPAR is under new leadership by new staff at Community Health

- Partnership and is planning to focus on Community Education, Increasing Access to Medication-Assisted Therapy (MAT), and Overdose Prevention.
- Maternal Child Health completed a presentation on the Promoting Connectedness, Resiliency, and Lifeskills (PCRLS) model to 30 attendees at District 49.
  - 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 220 two-question Patient Health Questionnaires (PHQ-2s) and 12 referrals to AspenPointe for further evaluation and connections to meet their specific behavioral health needs.

### **Surveillance, Epidemiology and Emergency Preparedness**

- Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Program Manager was invited to participate in the Pediatric Disaster Planning Coalition. This is a group of emergency managers across the state of Colorado working on planning for pediatric challenges in disasters and incidents. The goal of the group is to have a usable pediatric annex guidance/template for healthcare coalitions across Colorado.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response regional staff met with each of the counties in the South Central Region to review the new scope of work and plan how to meet goals strategically and collectively. Meetings were held individually with each county. Trends and themes were gathered and will be incorporated into the emergency preparedness program 2019/2020 workplan.
- EPCPH was honored with a visit on August 9 from a group of civil protection officials from Algeria. El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) met the criteria for this visit because we are among 300 local health departments across the country that has been distinguished for their agencies' preparedness efforts through Project Public Health Ready (PPHR). The Algerian delegation communicated through a French interpreter with the EPR team as well as the EPC Public Health Office of Communications to discuss common public health concerns during emergencies and learn about our EPR program. This meeting was part of the delegation's United States tour of five different communities across the nation to learn from local experts. The visit to El Paso County was sponsored by the Colorado Springs World Affairs Council.
- On August 19, Emergency Preparedness and Response staff participated in a Mass Casualty Incident Tabletop Exercise focused on Family Assistance Center operations. A Red Cross expert on Family Assistance Centers, who has responded to Family Assistance Centers in Las Vegas, Sandy Hook, Pulse nightclub and many others, conducted this exercise.
- EPCPH staff and external community entities participated in a functional exercise designed by our EPR team to test and evaluate capabilities of managing a measles response in El Paso County. This exercise focused specifically on decision-making processes and procedures involving non-pharmaceutical interventions. The intent was to provide key leaders and partners the opportunity to discuss

some critical and actionable decision points in recommending and implementing non-pharmaceutical interventions in response to a confirmed measles case within El Paso County. The After Actions Report from this exercise will be available next month.

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

- Through September 4, 2019, El Paso County had 100 outbreak-related hepatitis A cases. Other counties with outbreak cases include Denver (29 cases), Fremont (12 cases), Pueblo (3 cases), Douglas (1 case), Jefferson (2 cases) and Arapahoe (3 cases).
- El Paso County Public Health conducted 73 vaccine outreach events from October 2018 through August 2019, and administered 2,208 Hepatitis A vaccine and 82 Immune Globulin doses. With the assistance of community partners including the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Penrose St. Francis parish nurses, and UC Health/Memorial Emergency Department, EPCPH has administered 5,124 Hepatitis A vaccine.

#### Rabies

- The Communicable Disease program responded to 56 calls regarding possible rabies exposures. Twelve bats, three raccoons and three skunks were tested for rabies. Of those animals, three bats tested positive and three bats and one raccoon were untestable. Six 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 658 Bacteriological water tests, 395 for public water systems and 263 for private wells. 127 water samples were assayed for inorganic anions. The Laboratory Information System, Orchard Harvest, was successfully interfaced with the Electronic Health Record System on August 5. The interface has eliminated paper requisitions and streamlined the ordering and reporting of lab tests within the agency.

#### **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.

- Members of EPCPH leadership, management and administrative teams attended the Public Health in the Rockies (PHiR) Annual Conference in Keystone. The theme of this year’s conference was: “Equity and Social Justice: Innovation at Elevation”. Several actionable takeaways were gathered from the conference pertaining to health equity, informatics, and workforce development.
- The Communicable Disease (CD) program hosted CDPHE’s two-day Epi-Ready training for epidemiologists, laboratorians, and environmental health (EH) specialists from local public health agencies in Colorado and military partners. The Lead CD Epidemiologist, Retail Food Manager, and Lead EH Specialist attended a one-day, train-the-trainer event on the Epi-Ready curriculum. Epi-Ready focuses on how to efficiently respond to a foodborne disease outbreak through a team-based approach, bringing together the disciplines involved in the investigation of these outbreaks.
- The Tuberculosis (TB) program hosted CDPHE’s two-day, regional tuberculosis training for Colorado’s local public health agencies and military partners.
- EH staff attended Colorado Professionals in Onsite Wastewater (CPOW) Site and Soils class as observers and auditors to increase knowledge of USDA soil classifications, types, and treatments to better assist our OWTS Program.
- Three nurses in the Immunization clinic participated in the CDC’s webinar “Strategies for Addressing Vaccine Misinformation.” The webinar taught strategies on how to recommend vaccines to parents.

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

- TEPP attended a national Smoke-Free Public Housing webinar addressing early lessons learned since low-income multi-unit housing went smoke-free in July 2018. Data and sampling methodology from several states were shared.
- The Family Planning and the Lab were trained to use the new Patagonia (Electronic Health Record)/Harvest interface. This interface will save both the Family Planning Clinic and the Lab time in entering orders, and will allow for more efficient data entry of lab results.

**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 led extensive efforts to promote the Annual Back-to-School Summerfest event, where El Paso County Public Health provides free vaccinations each year. Social media posts reached a collective 20,010 people, with 1,369 engagements; a news release generated three television interviews.
- The Algerian delegation EPR visit summarized earlier in this report was covered on social media posts that reached 1,213 people, with 187 engagements.
- The Office of Communication managed media inquiries pertaining to

emerging issues including rabies, back-to-school vaccines, vaping, and flu. The total estimated viewership for media interviews is 95,638, and the estimated earned media value is \$9,667.21.

- The agency's website [www.elpasocountyhealth.org](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org) had 9,296 new visitors in August, with 25,654 page views.
- YSUP Planner participated on a panel at the Public Health in the Rockies Conference - "Facilitating a Robust Stakeholder Process to Transform Colorado's Governmental Public Health System"
- Teen Suicide Prevention (TSP) Planner and Youth Health and Development (YHD) Planner were recruited to speak on panels for community suicide prevention education events hosted by local organizations including Women United through Pikes Peak United Way, and Education for a Lifetime/COSILoveYou.
- TEPP community health educators presented information on vaping and tobacco cessation resources to nursing staff at two Peak Vista Community Health Centers to provide information on the health effects of vaping to share with their patients.
- TEPP Community Health Educator recorded a video for the EPCPH FaceBook page informing the community about a mysterious lung condition caused by vaping that is now impacting Colorado, among many other states. In addition, TEPP Program Manager was interviewed by KOAA Channel 5 about the lung condition, youth vaping and strategies to reduce youth use.
- The Immunization Program Manager worked with the Public Health Information Officer to create a short video addressing the importance of vaccination. The video is intended to help address some of the questions surrounding vaccination and encourages people to vaccinate their families.
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC) staff partnered with Nurse-Family Partnership and Maternal Child Health nurses in attending *The Big Latch* presented by the Pikes Peak Breastfeeding Coalition. This worldwide annual event brings awareness of the breastfeeding support provided by these programs and demonstrates staff's role in the promotion of optimal health to the community.

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

- Public Health Director was recruited and recently appointed by Governor Polis to the Colorado Commission on Family Medicine (COFM). The mission of COFM is "To address the health care needs of the people of Colorado through the education of family physicians and the promotion of patient-centered primary care." The vision of COFM is "Through a unique statewide public-private collaboration, lead the nation's premier family medicine residencies in providing quality family physicians for the people of Colorado, while positively impacting health and health care through the power of primary care."
- HCP was invited to attend the Department of Human Services (DHS) onboarding orientation to present on its services. Approximately 30 staff members and

- caseworkers participated in the orientation, which was HCP's third appearance at this program. In addition, MCH BYS CHE offered *Brainwise* training to 22 DHS employees. The training focuses on de-escalation techniques.
- MCH staffed a booth at the Westside Community Center picnic to outreach to families and other community partners and educate on the various services provided by El Paso County Public Health.
  - 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.
  - TSP Planner and YHD Planner led the August Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup meeting with over 30 partners in attendance. The agenda included time for each sub-group to reflect on accomplishments and future goals, awards for leaders and champions from the group presented by the Board of Health President, and closing remarks by the Public Health Director.
  - YHD Planner and TSP Planner provided education to new Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) content matter experts from Inside/Out Youth Services, Urban Peak, and Fort Carson Family Advocacy Program to review the goals of the team and prepare them to participate in their first local child fatality reviews.
  - 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 involving suicide. We discussed other partners to engage in these efforts and activities moving forward.
  - 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.
  - TEPP awarded nine mini-grants to schools in six school districts. Schools within Calhan RJ-1, District 11, District 20, District 49, District 2, and District 8 received the award. The schools are working on recruiting Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) club members and planning for events to promote tobacco-free schools.
  - TEPP awarded a mini-grant to Meadows Park Community Center to educate youth about the dangers of tobacco and vaping, and the industry's marketing tactics to youth and within certain neighborhoods. Meadows Park Community Center will collaborate with TEPP and other community partners to raise awareness of tobacco retailer licensing and Tobacco 21, a national campaign taking a local approach to raising the tobacco sales age from 18 to 21 years of age.
  - TEPP Community Health Educator attended the Community OutReach Coalition held in Calhan. The Coalition meeting brings together service providers and local

community members to discuss the needs of the rural communities in eastern El Paso County.

- About 30 community partners attended the August 1 Tobacco-Free Alliance meeting. Meeting highlights included short presentations about community support for Tobacco 21 and tobacco retailer licensing, Penrose Cancer Center, School District 49's updated Tobacco Prevention Policy, and the 2019 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey.
- MCH staff were involved in five (5) playgroups at Sand Creek and Fountain libraries this month, reaching approximately 100 families in total.
- MCH team, consisting of HCP care coordinators, ECOP CHE, and BYS CHE made new school connections and presented on MCH services at Skyview Middle School.
- MCH team performed outreach to a large local primary care organization, Matthews-Vu Medical Group, and provided a presentation to the medical group's population health team on MCH services and opportunities for collaboration.
- EH staff co-hosted two workshops with CDPHE to promote education and partnerships within the School Safety Program. These "Colorado Teachers School Chemicals Trainings" were attended by local high school teachers and maintenance staff. Topics included the Colorado School Regulations, Colorado Hazardous Waste requirements pertaining to school chemicals, and best practices for chemical safety and chemical waste management and disposal.
- EH staff met with the Air Force, CDPHE, EPA Region 8, and community partners regarding the ongoing efforts pertaining to PFOA/PFAS "Perfluorinated Compounds" groundwater contamination. This meeting was specifically focused on the southern water districts (Security, Widefield, and Fountain) and mitigation efforts. Infrastructure continues to be put in place to provide PFOA/PFAS-free drinking water to southern El Paso county residents.
- The Immunization Program Manager met with the outreach coordinator of Community Partnership for Child Development (Head Start) to discuss the resources in each of our programs and to better serve children and families in our community.
- Several EPCPH staff are participating in the state-wide Blueprint to End Hunger workgroups, including workgroups addressing Maximizing Child Nutrition and Increasing SNAP and WIC Enrollment.
- Nurse-Family Partnership and Maternal Child Health nurses had an information table at the Homelessness Expo event in August to discuss community resources for the homeless and connect with community partners to best serve our clients who are experiencing homelessness.

**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.

- Several members of Public Health and county Finance completed the second process map session to identify all steps involved in serving clients and billing for

services to increase efficiencies and outcomes. A new process for billing was identified and we are in the process of planning and implementation.

**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.

- Staff from the Office of Development and Strategic Initiatives is representing EPCPH on the Advisory Committee for the 2045 Regional Transit and Specialized Transportation Plans. The plans are the framework for the ongoing development and coordination of both transit services and specialized transportation for the Pikes Peak region and are updated every five years. The transit plan provides guidance for changes in service, frequencies, new projects, and growth of the system. The specialized plan sets out the evolution of coordination among multiple transit and transportation providers for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Representation on this committee reflects the agency's desire 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.
- With support from the Office of Development and Strategic Initiatives, Southeast Colorado Springs was selected as a pilot community for the Colorado Equity Compass, a web-based open data platform of community-level health equity indicators that brings to life the experiences of Colorado residents in communities experiencing inequities. The RISE Coalition and the Solid Rock Community Development Corporation submitted a successful joint application. Pilot communities (four in all) will receive technical assistance in understanding and implementing concepts for the social determinants of health framework and support to more effectively leverage data, research and storytelling in their work. The development and roll-out of the platform will take place in 2020 and will include the expansion of Community Facts, health equity data and resources, a list of health equity projects around the state, technical assistance tools, and more. The opportunity is in direct alignment with the agency's strategic goal to increase public awareness of health equity issues, its systemic causes, and opportunities to foster health equity, with particular emphasis on health indicator data to highlight health equity issues.
- The Immunization clinic served 122 "walk-in" clients, and Family Planning clinic also served 92 "walk in" clients in August. 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 participated in the annual "Back-to-School Summerfest." Our team was able to administer 65 vaccines to 25 clients. This outreach event helped break down some of the geographical barriers to vaccination and get students up-to-date for school. The Family Planning program also staffed an information table at the event.
- Nurse-Family Partnership received 27 new referrals, and made 244 nurse home visits during August. Structured playgroups were hosted at the Southeast WIC

clinic to encourage clients to build healthy supportive relationships and positive interactions with their children. Visiting clients in their home and hosting activities in areas close to clients' homes decreases barriers to care.