

To: Board of Health
From: Susan Wheelan, M.B.A. Public Health Director
Date: May 2019 (reflects April 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 (HCC). 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, Infants and Children (WIC) caseload was 12,616. Program staff continue to reach those in our community who are eligible but not enrolled. Outreach strategies include social media, our local "Refer a Friend" campaign (funded by the Colorado Health Foundation) and monthly outreach at the Deerfield Hills food pantry.
- WIC staff launched a "Happy Birthday" retention campaign. Multiple studies indicate a drop in WIC participation at a child's first birthday due to a perceived decrease in need for benefits, particularly due to the transition from formula to whole milk. The campaign highlights the benefits of continued WIC participation in addition to the food benefits (worth over \$2,100) when a child participates until age five.
- The Healthy Environment Planner represented EPCPH on Pikes Peak United Way's Community Impact Committee. The committee is in the process of assessing community support and perceived need toward the long-term outcomes of its goals, strategic direction and impact evaluation for its Community Investment Fund.
- Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP) Community Health Educator (CHE) received credentials from Colorado Shines which enables Maternal Child Health (MCH) program to offer early childhood facilities quality points in the Colorado Shines system when they participate in I am Moving I am Learning (IMIL) trainings.
- MCH ECOP CHE collaborated with the President of the Pikes Peak Region Family Child Care Association to plan a series of IMIL trainings for late summer.

Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention

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

- Public Health Planner hosted the quarterly HCC meeting to connect partner organizations and present initiatives supporting CHIP key priorities of mental health and substance abuse and healthy eating and active living. Over 65 individuals attended.
- MCH Promoting Connectedness Resiliency and Life Skills (PCRLS) CHE collaborated with a number of community partners including the Pikes Peak Region Family Child Care Association, Salvation Army, New Summit Charter School and downtown YMCA to plan BrainWise, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Question Persuade and Refer (QPR) training for youth serving staff.
- Healthy Children and Families (HCF) CHE completed 15 Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ)-9 depression screenings for clients referred from Department of Human Services (DHS). Clients are referred to providers as appropriate.
- 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 attended the Coalition for Prevention Education, Addiction and Recovery (CPAR) April Steering Committee meeting. CPAR is designed to address the complex issue of substance use disorders. By connecting multiple community partners to work collectively, CPAR facilitates collaboration, development of plans, policies and strategies to achieve common goals, which align with the CHIP goal of Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention.
- Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) presented on the dangers of vaping and tobacco use to approximately 570 students at Thomas MacLaren School, Lewis-Palmer Middle School, and Air Academy High School in Districts 11, 38, and 20. Additionally, 20 middle school counselors from District 20 were provided training on Tobacco Free School Policy, what to look for, and resources to help kids stop using nicotine products.
- During the month of April, EPCPH referred 16 clients to the Colorado QuitLine Fax Referral program for tobacco cessation assistance.
- TEPP staff attended the Prenatal Network meeting and provided resources for tobacco cessation in the clinical setting and vaping prevention information.
- The 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 237 two-question Patient Health Questionnaires (PHQ-2s) and 13 referrals to AspenPointe for further evaluation and connections to meet their specific behavioral health needs during the month of April.

Surveillance, Epidemiology and Emergency Preparedness

Hepatitis A Outbreak (2018-2019)

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Team (EP&RT) continues to support a public health response to a hepatitis A outbreak that is affecting people experiencing homelessness and/or using street drugs within El Paso County. Specifically, the EP&RT is facilitating the development of the Incident Action Plan and conducting meetings in accordance with the principles of the Incident Command System. The EP&RT is also providing technical support and guidance to the command and general staff on incident management principles.
- EPCPH continues to partner with agencies across the county to provide hepatitis A vaccine to at-risk populations (the El Paso County Sheriff's Office (EPSO), Memorial Hospital, Westside Cares, Criminal Justice Center (CJC), University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Beth-El College of Nursing). These partners have been, and continue to be, crucial in our response to limit and stop this outbreak.
- As of April 30, 2019, the case count remains at 49 in El Paso County, with nine additional cases reported in Colorado (one in Douglas County, two in Pueblo County, and six in Fremont County).
- EPCPH staff have conducted or participated in 37 outreach clinics and have administered over 1,557 vaccines since the onset of the outbreak in October 2018. EPCPH in collaboration with our community partners have provided nearly 1,000 additional vaccines since the onset of the outbreak, for a total of 2,540 vaccines administered to community members. The Communicable Disease (CD) Team continues surveillance for new cases of disease.
- The Medical Director provided an update on response efforts to members of El Paso County's Coalition for Homelessness Advocates and Providers (CHAP). Office of Communication provided educational handouts and FAQs
- In April, the Immunization and CD staff provided 65 vaccines administered at six different outreach events, and two "walking Points of Dispensing (PODs)" in partnership with the Colorado Springs Police Department Homeless Outreach Team officers.
- Additional vaccines were given in April by our partners at Westside Cares and the jail.
- Facilitated access for safety net clinics to the state-funded hepatitis A vaccine outbreak supply. Mission Medical and TLC Pharmacy will be working with the CDPHE Immunization Program to provide free hepatitis A vaccination to eligible patients.

Influenza Season 2018-2019

Cases of hospitalized influenza for this season (September 30 through April 27) include 361 adults and 101 children. Eighteen cases were reported in April (through April 27) compared to 105 cases reported in March and 156 cases reported in February.

Rabies

In April, two skunks tested positive for rabies (2019 total: five skunks, one fox, and one dog).

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.

- Performed 579 bacteriological water tests, 336 for public water systems and 243 for private wells. Thirty-four water samples were assayed for inorganic anions.
- The Laboratory successfully completed the biannual chemistry inspection and certification by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.
- MCH HCP, a program for children and youth with special health care needs, is currently serving 44 active care coordination clients; provided 18 referrals to community members; consulted with community partners on 10 cases and conducted four outreach events to educate the community on HCP services.
- Healthy Children and Families (HCF) CHE received 44 referrals, completed 15 home visits and five follow-up visits to families referred by DHS.

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.

- EPCPH electronic health records power users were provided supplemental training on use of the billing module with the goal of increasing our ability to bill insurance companies and send patient statements for services, diversifying funding streams.
- A series of training opportunities was offered to EPCPH staff during Public Health Week, April 1-5, to include sessions on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Emotional Intelligence, and congenital syphilis.
- All medical staff were offered the opportunity to learn or refresh their skills on tuberculosis skin test placement and reading at a session led by an instructor from Beth-El College of Nursing.
- EPCPH nurses trained students on Basic Life Saving Skills and CPR in accordance with the American Heart Association guidelines.
- EH Program Manager and Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership staff attended the Regional Institute for Health and Environmental Leadership's "Leadership Is For Everyone" conference in Denver. This year's foci were on ensuring diversity and inclusion when hiring, retaining employees, and creating a supportive and inclusive culture at work.
- EH Child Care team attended a training hosted by CDPHE for Child Care and School Outbreak Investigations. This was an opportunity to discuss relevant topics and regulatory requirements with public health nurses, epidemiologists, and environmental health staff.

- YSUP Planner facilitated a half-day Regional Public Health and Marijuana workshop for EPCPH's TEPP team in order to increase their knowledge of health effects of marijuana on children, young people, adults and pregnant/breastfeeding women; describe marijuana use/prevalence data by population in Colorado, as well as marijuana health impact data; and access state public awareness and prevention campaign resources.
- YSUP and TEPP CHEs attended Ethics in Prevention training and attended the Emerging Strategies to Address the Opioid Crisis Symposium.
- TEPP team attended Technology of Participation (ToP) Facilitation Training to help expand skills related to helping groups think, talk, and work together.
- MCH care coordinators and educators attended the Peaceful Households Conference, an annual conference that provides community partners with information regarding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), impact of child abuse on brain development for youth and community resources.
- MCH ECOP CHE and Care Coordinator attended a 20-hour lactation educator training course. Staff will continue with education hours and evaluations leading to certification as a lactation educator.

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

- EPCPH's Data Analyst is working with electronic health record's contractor to have the electronic health record system, Patagonia, interface with the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS). The first round of data validation has been completed and errors were identified. Resolution of errors is in progress.
- The Laboratory staff and Data Analyst continue testing the interface that connects the current laboratory information system with the new electronic health record to streamline ordering and reporting of lab tests within EPCPH.
- EH staff in the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) program met internally to review its current process and outcomes using data and stakeholder feedback. This provided valuable input that allowed the program to adjust their routine work to become more efficient. Specifically, the Operation and Maintenance section of the OWTS Regulations will formalize into a quarterly review program as a function of the critical needs position.
- WIC Registered Dietitian and Certified Lactation Counselor was selected to represent Colorado WIC at the California WIC Association Pre-Conference in San Diego on the topic: "Creating the Wave: WIC Innovations and Streaming." Staff member highlighted the benefits of utilizing technology to electronically streamline client certifications, education choice and Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) implementation experience and opportunities.

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.

- In partnership with TEPP, the Office of Communication completed the implementation of a five-month teen vaping prevention campaign. The campaign involved advertisements in movie theaters, malls, digital and print newspaper

media and YouTube. The YouTube ads received 948,463 impressions, 436,177 views, 878 clicks and a 45.99 percent view rate.

- The Office of Communication managed media inquiries and response with key agency spokespeople on emerging issues of vaccinations and measles. The estimated earned media value for these television interviews is \$4,358.
- The Office of Communication staff arranged to have the Medical Director give a live KRDO radio interview about the current situation with the measles outbreak and the importance of vaccinations.
- The CD Program conducted rabies education for the emergency departments at Memorial Central and Memorial North, and presented on rabies for Grand Rounds at Penrose/St. Francis.
- The CD Program presented on the role of public health in meningococcal disease response for the Pikes Peak Immunization Coalition.
- The CD Program presented on historic and modern plague for middle school students at Lewis Palmer.
- The Office of Communication managed all internal and external website functions and had 9,144 new visitors to www.elpasocountyhealth.org in April, with 25,286 page views.

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

- The southeast WIC office started hosting the Servicios de la Raza: Familias Unidas 12-week class series in April. This collaboration promotes education and resources to families in the southeast part of Colorado Springs.
- Public Health Planner and Community Outreach Coordinator convened the RISE Coalition and community residents to participate in the first public meeting for the Panorama Park renovation. Over 60 community members attended the meeting to provide input on their vision for the park.
- Environmental Health staff participated in the first Space Brigade “Stand up for Safety Expo” to promote safety awareness throughout U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. Staff provided information on food safety and other EH programs. This event provides ECPH the opportunity to strengthen our relationship with our military partners.
- The Immunization Clinic worked with a local church to plan and implement a travel vaccine outreach event for missionaries traveling to Uganda and Brazil. Our clinic was able to provide yellow fever, typhoid and several other vaccines.
- MCH PCRLS CHE worked with community and school partners to plan community asset fair for Turman and Stratmoor elementary schools, which will be held in May.
- MCH PCRLS CHE joined the Schools Group subcommittee of the Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup; the Wellness Committee of Academy District 20; and the Social Emotional Learning Committee of Colorado Springs District 11.

- MCH ECOP CHE was selected to lead a committee of the Pikes Peak Breastfeeding Coalition charged with developing a Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace endorsement to be promoted in the community.
- MCH CHEs joined the Family Speak and Learning and Development Committees of Alliance for Kids, our community's Early Childhood Council.
- YSUP Planner and CHE continue to lead the Fountain Valley Communities That Care (CTC) coalition.
- Teen Suicide Prevention (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. Meeting attendees reviewed firearm-related death statistics for the United States, Colorado, and El Paso County, and discussed activities moving forward.
- TSP Planner and Youth Health and Development (YHD) Planner met with a representative from Colorado Community Health Alliance (CCHA) to discuss participation in the Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup and other partnership opportunities. The CCHA representative plans to stay engaged in the Workgroup by participating in the Internal Communication sub-group and helping to advance inter-agency communication to support youth at risk for suicide.
- TEPP and MCH staff met with CCHA to discuss programming related to asthma as well as agency programming that could support children and families impacted by asthma.
- TSP Planner and YHD Planner met with a representative from EPSO K9 Unit to discuss recent trends around youth suicide and substance use and opportunities to increase collaboration between EPSO and local schools.
- YHD Planner attended the Colorado Child Fatality Prevention System (CFPS) annual data review and legislative prioritization meetings and provided input on the 2019 CFPS Legislative Report.
- The Nurse-Family Partnership Community Advisory Board hosted a community follow-up discussion to address the high rates of low-birth weight in El Paso County. During this facilitated discussion community partners agreed to work on creating an Infant Mortality Framework. This collaborative effort will continue for the remainder of the year. Some of the community partners actively involved are March of Dimes, Peak Vista Women's Clinic, Early Head Start, Prenatal Plus-Peak Vista, Teller County Public Health, Healthy Communities, Nurse-Family Partnership, and WIC.

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.

- Public Health Transformation (PHT) update: As co-chair of the PHT Steering Committee, YSUP Planner provided testimony before the Colorado State Board of Health in support of the Core Public Health Service rule change, and the Board unanimously supported the recommended change. This rule change updated Colorado's Core Public Health Services to align with the national Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) model, and was a key step in transforming public health in Colorado. According to a study that compared states across the nation to the FPHS model, Colorado's core public health services were approximately 90 percent aligned with the model. Therefore, this rule change request included only a few proposed changes, such as distinguishing "foundational capabilities" from "foundational public health services" and adding a focus on health equity and social determinants of health.
- PHT Cost Assessment update: YSUP Planner serves on the Cost Assessment Project Management Team and has been working closely with EPCPH's Development and Strategic Initiatives Office to beta test the Cost Assessment Tool and plan for the upcoming cost assessment process which is expected to launch the first week of May and staff from across the agency will take part in completing the tool. The cost assessment will allow local public health agencies across the state to identify the current cost of providing core public health services, and what additional funding and resources are needed to be able to fully implement services. This information will be used to present to legislatures in the future to advocate for additional public health funding.

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.

- To raise awareness and encourage families to test their homes for radon, EH and WIC staff handed out 280 radon test kits to interested families. These activities helped meet grant objectives to provide education and outreach to low-income members of our community.
- Over the past few months, the Immunization Clinic has worked with a local preparatory school in the planning of an immunization outreach event to increase vaccine requirement compliance and reduce barriers to care.
- The Immunization Clinic served 122 "walk-ins" in the month of April. Family Planning Clinic served 74 walk-in clients. These walk-in clinic times help to break down barriers and improve access to health care for those who cannot make it in for a traditional scheduled appointment.
- TSP Planner and YHD Planner led the April Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup meeting with 40 partners in attendance. The agenda focused on LGBTQ youth health disparities and opportunities to increase protective factors for this population. It was facilitated by members of the Inside Out Youth Services Youth Advisory Board.