

To: Board of Health

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

Date: December 16, 2013 (Reflects November 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*

- El Paso County Public Health began our 2013 Customer Satisfaction Survey. The purpose of this survey is to assess patron satisfaction with select services offered by Public Health. The anonymous, voluntary survey is offered to patrons at the time services are received. The survey is offered both in English and Spanish. Surveying occurred November 1 to December 6 in the following eight program areas: Clinical Services, Environmental Health, Immunization/Travel Clinic, Laboratory, Strong and Healthy Families, Tuberculosis Clinic, Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program (WIC), Vital Records.
- Data from the surveys will be compiled and presented in the 2013 El Paso County Public Health Customer Satisfaction Survey report.

Deputy Director—*Dan Martindale*

Emergency Preparedness and Response: Emergency Preparedness and Response staff attended a Health Care Evacuation Conference in Denver. This conference was for long-term care facilities, home health care and hospitals. Our program coordinator was invited to participate as part of a panel discussion for El Paso County Public Health. Included on the panel were American Medical Response, Regional Medical Response System (health care coalition), Penrose Hospital, Liberty Heights (long-term care). The panel discussed the differences of Waldo Canyon Fire and Black Forest Fire from the perspective of evacuating long-term care facilities. Planning, lessons learned and legal issues were some of the many topics discussed by the panel.

Emergency Preparedness and Response conducted the South Central Regional Public Health Meeting. Due to bad weather two of the counties in our five-county region were unable to attend in person and had to participate via conference call. A Fit Testing Train the Trainer was given to those attending and will be repeated for those unable to attend. This training will help each county in the region ensure that their staff know how to use proper protective equipment and that the equipment will fit properly.

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

Communicable Disease (CD) - reflects CD activities in November 2013

- Reportable infectious diseases - 37 infectious disease cases were reported and investigated: campylobacter (2), giardia (1), chronic hepatitis B (2), influenza, hospitalized (3); pertussis (5), salmonella (1), Shiga toxin-producing E coli (STEC) (1), strep pneumo invasive (6), varicella (13), and viral meningitis (3).
- Possible foodborne illness complaints: 4
- CD staff investigated three outbreaks in November, all GI illness (norovirus or suspect norovirus) in long-term care facilities.
- CD program responded to 12 calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals, or other rabies-related concerns. From the animals involved in those inquiries, five were tested for rabies (two skunks, one bat, one cat, one raccoon).
- The cat that tested positive for rabies in October did not confirm positive at CDC Lab.

Tuberculosis (TB) – reflects TB program activities for November, 2013:

- New active TB cases investigated: 0
- New suspect active cases investigated: 0
- Contact investigations ongoing: 1
- Contacts evaluated/tested: 0
- General TB skin tests done: TB-36, IZ-22
- TB skin tests done related to contact investigations: 0
- TB blood tests (Quantiferon) done related to contact investigations: 0
- Cases on Direct Observed Therapy (DOT): 3
- Cases on Direct Observed Preventive Therapy (DOPT): 1
- Total DOT/DOPT visits: 36
- Latent TB Infection (LTBI) cases under treatment: 7
- Refugee and/or class B immigrant TB evaluations: 1

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

Black Forest Fire Response and Recovery:

- 148 plans in the Black Forest burn area have been submitted to Pikes Peak Regional Building, many of which are for detached garages or the rebuilding of a house that was destroyed. We continue to get on-site wastewater treatment (OSWT) system evaluations submitted as a part of the plan approval process that helps assure the property owner that the new structure being rebuilt will be connected to a system that is adequately sized, and wasn't damaged by the fire or firefighting activities. To date, 229 on-site wastewater treatment system evaluations of the 488 homes that were destroyed have been submitted for our review.
- Three Environmental Health Specialists attended the Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response in Aniston, AL. Transportation, lodging, and meals were provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The purpose of the course is to increase the level of emergency preparedness of environmental health practitioners by providing them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to address the environmental health impacts of emergencies and disasters.

On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems and Groundwater Protection Program

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

- OWTS final inspections: 30
- OWTS soil and site evaluations: 28

- OWTS new permits issued: 15
- OWTS repair permits issued: 26
- OWTS design reviews: 27
- Pumper truck inspections: 3
- Complaint investigations: 2
- Proposed El Paso County on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS) regulations are in the final stages of revision. OWTS regulation draft includes comments and suggestions from the OWTS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting in late October. The latest draft will be sent back out to the TAG and other stakeholders for final review. Comments from the TAG and stakeholders are due by December 30, 2013. Final revision will be assembled, formatted, and sent to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for their required review. The final draft will be ready for a BoH Hearing early in 2014.

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: 384
- RFE follow-up inspections: 50
- RFE plan reviews – new construction: 8
- RFE pre-operational inspections: 39
- RFE complaint investigations: 18
- RFE compliance proceedings: 8
- 25 students took advantage of our online Basic Food Safety class
- 39 students took our onsite Basic Food Safety class

Childcare Inspection Program

- Regular inspections: 20
- Preoperational inspections: 4
- All child care facilities needing a health approval inspection in 2013 have been inspected to prevent the spread of disease and assure a safe and healthy environment.

Recreational Water Program

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

- Regular inspections: 19
- Follow-up inspections: 1
- Complaint investigation: 2

Body Art Safety Program

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

- Regular inspections: 8
- Plan reviews: 1
- Investigating a complaint of an unlicensed body art establishment.

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

WIC:

- October caseload 14,874

Immunizations:

- Immunizations program manager presented an overview of our immunization and travel services to approximately 20 members of the Pikes Peak Flu and Immunization Coalition at their November meeting.
- Immunizations program manager and the backup vaccine ordering nurse completed required online training for the Colorado Immunization Inventory System's (CIIS) Aggregate Inventory and Vaccine Ordering Module. Every dose of publically-funded vaccine must be accounted for using this new CIIS feature. El Paso County is among the first group of Colorado LPHAs to use CIIS for vaccine ordering rather than the federal website.
- Immunization staff attended anti-smoking training presented by the TEPP employees. The session focused on standardizing and expediting referrals to the Colorado QuitLine.
- EPCPH provided 21 doses of influenza vaccine for a flu shot clinic at Grace Be Unto You Outreach Church. Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Penrose Hospital provided staff and supplies for the flu shot clinic. Flu shots were offered to those who are underinsured or uninsured.

Maternal Child Health:

Child Health/ Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP)

- The Community Health Educator is working with the Public Health Information Officer on promoting the consistent early childhood obesity prevention messages that were developed by the Colorado Department of Health and Environment. "Decrease Screen Time to Give Your Child a Healthier Life" was chosen for the November message. It was published on the EPCPH website, presented on video screens at the Citizens Service Center, promoted through our internal clinic sites and shared with community partners including Alliance for Kids.
- The Community Health Educator and Program Manager helped implement a day-long Cooking Matters for Child Care with Alliance for Kids.
- The Public Health Nurse began recruiting for the ECOP classes for childcare providers that will start in January 2014.
- The Community Health Educator facilitated the Healthy Communities Collaborative steering committee meeting and School Taskforce meetings on Coordinated School Health.

ABCD (Assuring Better Childhood Development) Developmental Screening

- The third ABCD stakeholder's meeting was held with 24 community partners in attendance. The group continues work on a community Roadmap for screening and referral.

Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (HCP)

- The HCP Family Support Specialist attended training on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) at Children's Hospital. One of the HCP Public Health Nurses attends weekly trans-disciplinary meetings with Early Intervention at The Resource Exchange to coordinate services.
- Outreach efforts were conducted to Healthy Communities and The Resource Exchange.
- The MCH Program Manager attended a care coordination meeting through the Community Health Partnership and facilitated the Newborn Hearing Taskforce meeting. The MCH Program Manager also attended an Advisory Council meeting with program managers from around the State.

Strong and Healthy Families:

- In November the program received 24 referrals from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) case managers. Fifteen new referrals enrolled in class; 12 clients previously enrolled continued to attend

class; 20 clients attended class on a regular basis (74% of enrolled clients); total graduates to date in 2013: 49.

Nurse Family Partnership:

- Caseload: 203, capacity based on staffing level and expected rate of new nurses building caseload: 200, target: 250. Caseload is 82% of funded caseload level.
- A Nurse Home Visitor provided training to her Nurse Home Visitor colleagues regarding Partners in Parenting Education modules.
- All staff participated in training regarding long-acting reversible contraceptives.
- All staff participated in training provided by Tobacco Education Prevention Program on the protocol to refer clients to the QuitLine for support with tobacco cessation.
- The Nurse Supervisor provided training to all Nurse Home Visitors regarding usage of mental health algorithms to ensure appropriate case management of potential suicidal and/or homicidal clients.

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

Tobacco Education Prevention and Partnership (TEPP)

- Met with the Commander, Metro Vice, Narcotics, and Intelligence Division (VNI), Colorado Springs Police Department, to discuss enforcement of the non-cigarette tobacco retailer in Fountain, and the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act (CCIAA) complaint response process. Commander of VNI will contact law enforcement officials in Fountain to develop a plan for conducting tobacco retailer license compliance checks in Fountain. TEPP team members will update both the internal and external CCIAA complaint response process based on feedback received during the meeting.
- Provided a presentation on monitoring the tobacco retail environment to inform local policy priorities at the State Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (STEPP) fall conference. Team members developed a presentation on using geographic information systems (GIS) to map tobacco retailers and related issues in El Paso County, and how these maps help shape policy efforts. These maps allow audiences to identify the problem of tobacco sales to minors in our community by showing proximity of tobacco retailers to schools and other youth-serving facilities, and the number of retailers that have been identified as having illegally sold tobacco products to minors within the past two years. Approximately 20 people attended the presentation. The conference provided team information and training related to the activities and deliverables within the FY2014 work plan.
- Held Colorado QuitLine fax referral program/cessation trainings for Nurse Family Partnership, Maternal and Child Health, and Immunizations staff at El Paso County Public Health. EPCPH staff will be expected to consistently use the (2A's and an R) ask, advise, and refer clients who use tobacco products to the Colorado QuitLine beginning in January 2014. TEPP team members will be providing ongoing technical assistance and support during the implementation period.
- Completed several focus groups with youth and adults: Hispanic, low socio-economic status and gay-lesbian-bi- and transsexual populations to determine the best modes for advertising/social marketing efforts, as well as most effective messages related to tobacco education and prevention. Analysis is underway and a final report will be complete mid-to-late December.
- Initiated youth coalition member recruitment at Palmer High School. Students who signed up will be invited to meetings to learn more about the negative effects of tobacco use and ways they can work to support community solutions. Gained commitments from two youth sponsors from Palmer High School.

Great American Smokeout (GASO) Event:

- Led the event coordination for Great American Smokeout (GASO) at Pikes Peak Community College. Facilitated involvement with partner agencies. Drafted and completed Board of Health Resolution to recognize partner agencies; provided media kit and promotional materials for the event, and oversaw the

project management for paid media placements. Reviewed and edited scripts, digital media placements and facilitated on-air interview opportunities.

- Facilitated the Smash the Pack at the Great American Smokeout event at Pikes Peak Community College. Team members handed out information and resources on tobacco education and cessation, and encouraged tobacco users to make a plan to quit, or to quit smoking that day. Over 200 individuals received health screenings from the Colorado Springs Fire Department, and an estimated 400 participants collected information and quit support materials.
- Partnered with Fort Carson for the Great American Smokeout event held on base. TEPP provided banners, posters, brochures, tobacco quit kits, and mints for the event. They set up in two locations on base and had over 50 soldiers commit to quit using tobacco. Twenty more signed up for additional information.
- Youth participated in the GASO from Boys and Girls Club and the Welte Education Center. They conducted research on the GASO with guidance from TEPP staff. They used their findings to develop messages and create posters (such as “90 Percent of Adult Smokers Start before Age 18,” and “I choose Independence and Do Not Need Drugs”). The posters are being used in the Boys and Girls Club and the Welte Education Center’s teen rooms. There were also some posters selected to be used at the GASO – Smash Your Pack event at Pikes Peak Community College.
- El Paso County Public Health’s social media engagement during the Great American Smokeout included posting photos on Facebook of “quit stories” that were shared at the event. These stories were written on large presentation-size posters.
 - Photos of these individual stories generated more online conversation through 27 “shares” reaching 24,064 people. Among the people and agencies that shared these stories was KKTU 11 News. This item generated 310 “likes” by their followers and 187 comments from more people sharing their own success stories of quitting tobacco. Examples of stories shared include:
 - “I haven’t had a cigarette in seventy-two hours. Not much, but I’m proud of it. I have had pneumonia twice in the past six months, and my doctor said if I didn’t quit it could kill me. It’s so hard, but I already feel better.”
 - “Smoked for 35 years – Dr diagnosed me with pre-pneumonia. Got medicine and went home to sleep. Woke up and lit a cigarette....couldn’t breathe. That was over 5 years ago. Scared me so bad I never lit another cigarette.”
 - “I quit because my 5 year old begged me, in tears, to quit. I couldn’t say no!”
 - “I quit 12 years ago. I never thought I could, I loved smoking, but I love living smoke free more!”

Communication Support

- **11.01.13 – Colorado Springs Kids**, ““Decrease Screen Time to Give Your Child a Healthier Life,” written by Office of Communication.
- **11.19.13 – Colorado Springs FreshInk**, “Smash the Pack for the Great American Smokeout,” submitted by Office of Communication.
- Assisted with development of Early Childhood Obesity Prevention monthly mini-campaign: Decrease Screen Time to Give Your Child a Healthier Life. Campaign elements included monthly article for local print and online media and distribution to partner agencies with Healthy Community Collaborative; development of visuals for the video screens in Vital Statistics and Aspen Pointe public areas; and social media messaging for Facebook and Twitter.
- Revised Immunization Clinic’s Spanish informational flyer for clients.
- Facilitated media proposal presentations for the request for proposals (RFP) process for the Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership program’s FY14 media advertising campaign.

News Release

11.13.13 – Smash the Pack for the Great American Smokeout

Social Media/Online digital media: The Office of Communication provides content management for social media platforms. November content included: “Decrease Screen Time” campaign messages, flu prevention, holiday food safety, and Great American Smokeout campaign messages. According to Facebook analytics, the total 28-day reach (unique users) for these messages in November was 1.3 million people. Facebook: 449 “likes; Twitter: 945 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. During November, our office received and answered approximately 48 emails through our website.

Website statistics

According to Google Analytics, www.elpasocountyhealth.org had 6,516 unique visitors to the site with 18,275 pageviews (from November 4, to December 4, 2013). The top five most visited pages were birth and death records, WIC, retail food establishments, inspection reports, and immunizations.