

To: Board of Health

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

Date: January 27, 2014 (Reflects December 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's Quality Improvement Team is currently working with Tobacco Education and Prevention Program (TEPP) staff to implement the Colorado QuitLine Fax Referral program into the following Public Health programs: Clinical Services, Immunization/Travel Clinic, Strong and Healthy Families, Tuberculosis Clinic, Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program (WIC), Maternal Child Health and Nurse Family Partnership. TEPP staff is completing their training of program staff on the QuitLine, fax referral program and other tobacco issues. The Colorado QuitLine Fax Referral program is projected to be implemented in the programs in the first quarter of 2014.
- El Paso County Public Health 2013 Customer Satisfaction surveying ended December 6, 2013. Eleven hundred thirty two surveys were collected among 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 is being compiled and will be presented in the 2013 El Paso County Public Health Customer Satisfaction Survey report.
- The Healthy Community Collaborative (HCC) Steering Committee and HCC School Health task force members met with a representative from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to discuss state efforts regarding Coordinated School Health. The meeting provided HCC members with a greater understanding of Coordinated School Health and the opportunity to collaborate with state officials to ensure HCC school health initiatives are in alignment with and supported by the state. The Healthy Community Collaborative goal is to stop the upward trend of overweight and obesity in El Paso County within the next five years and reverse the trend in the coming decade.

Deputy Director—*Dan Martindale*

- Emergency Preparedness and Response: Emergency Preparedness and Response staff hosted the Cities Readiness Initiative meeting. The meeting focused on Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) deliverables for this contract year and the updating of the regional SNS plan.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response program manager and Regional Epidemiologist participated in an interview/survey with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regarding the use of EMResource during the Synthetic Marijuana Outbreak investigation. EMResource is a robust browser-based system that addresses mass casualty incidents, including large scale disasters by providing response via emergency department triage capacity reporting.

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

Communicable Disease (CD) - reflects CD activities in December, 2013

- Reportable infectious diseases - 125 infectious disease cases were reported and investigated: giardia (3), haemophilus influenza (1), chronic hepatitis B (4), influenza, hospitalized (82); Kawasaki syndrome (2), pertussis (12), strep pneumo invasive (6), varicella (10), and viral meningitis (5).
- Possible foodborne illness complaints: 6
- CD staff investigated seven long-term care facility outbreaks in December - six GI illness (norovirus or suspect norovirus), and one influenza.
- CD program responded to five calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals, or other rabies-related concerns. From the animals involved in those inquiries, two were tested for rabies (one dog, one skunk).

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

- New active TB cases investigated: 1
- New suspect active cases investigated: 0
- Cases on Direct Observed Therapy (DOT): 4
- Cases on Direct Observed Preventive Therapy (DOPT): 1
- Total DOT/DOPT visits: 31
- General TB skin tests done: TB - 45, IZ -15
- TB blood tests (Quantiferon) done related to contact investigations: 5
- TB skin tests done related to contact investigations: 0
- Contact investigations ongoing: 1
- Contacts evaluated/tested: 5
- Refugee and/or class B immigrant TB evaluations: 3
- Latent TB infection (LTBI) cases under treatment: 7

Laboratory – *Jean Hurd, M.T., Lab Director*

- The laboratory began performing TB IGRA blood tests in March 2013 and performed 371 of these tests during 2013. Testing was performed in support of the TB Department and Peak Vista Refugee Programs.
- The laboratory completed the College of American Pathologists (CAP) proficiency testing program for 2013 with 100% accuracy.

- Public health laboratory employees were interviewed for a local lab feature in the Association of Public Health Laboratory (APHL) quarterly periodical “Lab Matters.” This magazine is for laboratory professionals around the country.

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

Black Forest Fire Response and Recovery

- One hundred eighty-eight 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 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 fire-fighting activities.
- To date, 251 on-site wastewater treatment system evaluations of the 488 homes that were destroyed have been submitted for our review.

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 (OWTS) to protect drinking water originating from groundwater:

- OWTS final inspections: 28
- OWTS soil and site evaluations: 26
- OWTS new permits issued: 10
- OWTS repair permits issued: 19
- OWTS application/design reviews: 29
- Pumper truck inspections: 5
- Complaint investigations: 3
- Proposed El Paso County on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS) regulations- chapter 8 are in the final stage of revision. OWTS regulation draft includes comments and suggestions from the OWTS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting in late October as well as comments received for inclusion consideration from the industry throughout 2013. Final revision will be assembled, formatted, and sent to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for their required review in January 2014. The final draft will be submitted to the BoH at the January 2014 meeting for a resolution to hold a public hearing at the February 2014 BoH meeting.
- Staff met with County Information and Technology Department to finalize the OWTS scanning process. The goal is to have all OWTS records (estimated 35,000 records) electronically scanned and made available on-line for the public. The estimated completion date will be determined after we evaluate the actual scanning rate.

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: 466
- RFE follow-up inspections: 60
- RFE plan reviews – new construction: 7
- RFE plan review – remodels: 3
- RFE pre-operational inspections: 24
- RFE complaint investigations: 13

- RFE compliance proceedings: 3
- Students took advantage of our online Basic Food Safety class: 56
- All licensed year-round retail food establishments that operated for a minimum of six months received two regular inspections.
- Division director attended the monthly Pikes Peak Chapter of the Colorado Restaurant Association to promote the on-line food safety training and discuss the 2014 licensing requirements.

Recreational Water Program

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

- Regular inspections: 6
- Pre-operational inspections: 2

Body Art Safety Program

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

- Regular inspections: 2
- Complaint investigations: 1

Air Quality Control Program

- Staff investigated two complaints of excessive smoke, dust or odor.
- Issued five construction activity permits to assure that contractors have approved fugitive dust control plans.
- Reviewed ten open burning permits to evaluate air quality issues that may impact public health. Nine open burning permit applications were approved. Applicants may apply online for an open burn permit and there is no charge for the permit.
- Staff attended a meeting of the Air Quality Technical Committee on December 12, 2013. The main topic of discussion was ozone air quality modeling and how it relates to a possible reduction in the ambient air quality standard for the Pikes Peak Region. There was also a presentation on the Regional Air Quality Council, which monitors air quality in the Denver Metro Area and Northern Front Range.

School Laboratory Self-Certification Pilot Project

Staff has been working with the Hazardous Material and Waste Management Division of the Colorado Department of Health and Environment, to initiate field training beginning in January 2014. Nine inspections will be conducted at the 46 schools which responded to the request to provide a lab safety self assessment. Schools to be inspected will be chosen at random, except that a tenth inspection will be conducted at a school which did not provide a self assessment.

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

Child Health/ Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP):

- Community Health Educator is working with the Public Health Communications Specialist on promoting the consistent early childhood obesity prevention messages that were developed by the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE). The next messages that will be promoted are “Play together as a family, turn off the TV” and “Give yourself and your baby all the benefits of breastfeeding.”
- The ECOP Public Health Nurse will start classes for childcare providers on January 18, 2014. This is a three part series; Healthy Eating, Active Living and Food Program/Policy Changes in Child Care Facilities/Food Allergies.

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

- Public Health nurse visited CDPHE for an orientation session and HCP representative from CDPHE conducted a site visit to provide training on the changes in the state data system.
- One HCP Public Health nurse attends weekly trans-disciplinary meetings with Early Intervention at the Resource Exchange to coordinate services. Outreach efforts were continued to Early Intervention at the Resource Exchange.

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

Tobacco Education Prevention and Partnership (TEPP)

- Trained EPCPH staff on the Colorado Quitline fax referral program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Clinical Services staff (about 85 employees). TEPP team members will be providing ongoing technical assistance and support during the implementation period.
- Team met with Regional Prevention Consultant at the OMNI Institute, to discuss training and technical assistance she can provide to the TEPP program. Consultant will assist with building the capacity of the Tobacco Education Coalition (TEC), and will be providing training and other resources to TEPP staff over the coming months.
- Staff held the first official Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) coalition meeting at Palmer High School. Students filled out a youth engagement survey, were provided with information on the purpose of the coalition, and were given some background on why youth tobacco use is an issue.
- Discussed partnership with members of the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services as well as Colorado Springs City Council on implementing smoke-free parks and open space policy.
- Coordinated kick-off orientations for SWAT youth group at the Tutt Boys and Girls Club (BGC). Youth signed commitment cards, decorated their Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) t-shirts and completed a team building activity related to media messaging. TEPP has secured monthly dates for continued training on media awareness, leadership and public speaking skills.
- Participated in the Youth Engagement Round Table (YERT) that was focused on youth coalition activities involving media messaging. The YERT group consists of youth engagement specialist from other counties in Colorado working toward reducing youth tobacco use.
- Provided technical assistance on the Springs Rescue Mission (SRM) Colorado cessation resources such as: Colorado QuitLine, tobaccofreeco.org and CoQuitMobile.org. The SRM provides housing to women that have been homeless for longer than 18 months. The SRM Women's Housing Unit requires all live in residents to be substance free within 30 days.
- Staff met with a professional development coordinator with Alliance for Kids about presenting a tobacco free message at the annual child care conference in April. More than 300 child care workers will attend the conference; approximately 60% from CCCAP centers.
- Compiled a six month lesson plan that will educate and train the students in the youth coalition on branding and media awareness, leadership skills, public speaking and event coordination and implementation. The lessons will be taught bi-weekly to both SWAT teams.
- Facilitated a Tobacco Education Coalition (TEC) meeting with 17 community partners in attendance. EPCPH and Peterson AFB gave an update of the Great American Smokeout events that occurred at Pikes Peak Community College and Peterson Air Force base. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Karen Palus, Parks Director, and Briate Kates, Facility Director, from the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services for adopting a smoke-free policy for all city parks and open spaces.

Print News Media

12.23.13 – Colorado Springs Business Journal, “Four tips to boost health and productivity in 2014.” Written by Office of Communication.

12.23.13 – Colorado Springs Business Journal, “Jill Law embraces her task at EPC Public Health.” Interview provided by Jill Law, B.S.N., R.N., M.H.A.

12.17.13 – The Gazette, “Study finds U.S. Health gains, but work still to be done.” Interview provided by Bill Letson, M.P.H., M.D., Medical Director. Estimated daily circulation, 77,000.

Television News Media

The Office of Communication has implemented a measurement tool that captures and places a market value on TV news coverage. Media value dollar figures reflect equivalent costs for 30-second spot advertising during the respective newscasts and times. Multiple newscasts/times are noted, when applicable, and included in value totals. There are other stories, as well as coverage and video on local news media outlets’ websites that are not included in this news media value report.

12.06.13 – KRDO Channel 13 at 4:30, 5, 6 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Whooping cough cases update. Interview provided by Shannon Rowe, M.P.H., Communicable Disease Program Manager. Local viewership: 33,680; estimated value: \$3,185.

12.11.13 – KOAA News 5 at 6 p.m. Vaccinations and the personal belief exemption stakeholder engagement report. Interview provided by Bill Letson, M.P.H., M.D., Medical Director. Local viewership: 22,002; estimated value: \$4,052.

12.11.13 – KRDO Channel 13 at 10 p.m. Vaccinations and the personal belief exemption stakeholder engagement report. Interview provided by Bill Letson, M.P.H., M.D., Medical Director. Local viewership: 5,667; estimated value: \$918.

Communication Support

- Completed website updates for 2014 forms and documents for Laboratory, Environmental Health, and Immunization divisions.
- Facilitate and edit article for Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL).
- Assist with media and communication planning in the statement of work plan for Tobacco Education Prevention and Partnership fiscal year 2015.
- Review and approve social media content for “Be a good role model. Be tobacco free” campaign.
- Finalize talking points for Cumulus and Clear Channel radio to motivate tobacco users to stop using tobacco for New Year’s resolutions.
- Develop 2014 social media plan for EPCPH accounts.

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 (paid and unpaid) in December was 1.5 million people. Facebook: 452 “likes”; Twitter: 968 current followers.

Healthinfo requests:

The Office of Communication receives and refers e-mails that come to our website each day and tracks our responses. These e-mails reveal information needs that could be addressed through creation of print or website material. Between December 1 and 31, our office received and answered/referred approximately 80 emails through our website.

Website statistics

According to Google Analytics, www.elpasocountyhealth.org had 6,626 unique visitors to the site with 18,108 pageviews (from December 10, to January 9, 2014). The top five most visited pages were birth and death records, WIC, immunizations, retail food establishments, and location/directions.