

To: Board of Health

From: Dan Martindale, M.P.A.
Interim Public Health Director

Date: July 21, 2014 (Reflects June 2014)

Re: Director's Report

Acronyms

- EPCPH – El Paso County Public Health
- CDPHE – Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Accreditation: *Kathy Vincent, Office of Planning, Partnerships, and Accreditation, Director*
Performance Management Plans are reviewed and updated, as needed, on an annual basis. Review of the [2012-2017 Community Health Improvement Plan](#) and [2012-2017 Strategic Plan](#) are complete. These plans were shared with employees and community stakeholders through Public Health's external and internal websites.

Emergency Preparedness and Response:

Participated in the Emergency Management Collaborative Waldo Canyon Fire Burn Scar Tour. This was a very informative tour, staff looked at the mitigation that has been accomplished so far, and will consider what else needs to be done.

Staff attended the Mass Fatality course held in Fairplay, CO. This two day course prepares response personnel and other responsible agencies to handle mass fatalities and to effectively work with survivors in an emergency or disaster.

Assisted Teller County in reviewing mass fatality plans for their community.

Attended and presented at the Long Term Care Disaster Preparedness Conference held in Colorado Springs. The conference focused on enhancing the ability of Long Term Care and health care organizations throughout Colorado to respond to an array of natural and human caused emergency events.

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

Communicable Disease (CD): Reportable infectious diseases - 32 infectious disease cases were reported and investigated: campylobacter (8), giardia (1), chronic hepatitis B (8), Legionellosis (1), listeriosis (1), pertussis (1), Salmonella (8), shigella (1), strep pneumo invasive (3), varicella (1), and viral meningitis (2).

- Foodborne illness complaints: 7
- Investigated six outbreaks in June: 3 GI illness outbreaks related to retail food establishments; 3 GI illness outbreaks in long-term care facilities.

- Responded to 23 calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals and other rabies-related concerns. From those inquiries, eight animals were tested for rabies (four bats, two raccoons, one skunk, and one cat). One bat tested positive for rabies
- Two children were recommended to receive post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) due to exposure to the rabid bat.

Tuberculosis (TB):

- Cases on Direct Observed Therapy (DOT): 2
- Total DOT/DOPT visits: 10
- General TB skin tests done: TB - 50 , IZ - 40
- Refugee and/or class B immigrant TB evaluations: 2
- Latent TB Infection (LTBI) cases under treatment: 9

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

Black Forest Fire Recovery and Flood Preparation

- To date, 323 on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS) evaluations of the 488 homes that were destroyed have been submitted for review. System evaluations are conducted by either a Colorado Professional Engineer or EPCPH Licensed Installer, and are submitted electronically to EPCPH. Of the 323 OWTS evaluations, 73 have required a repair permit to either replace a damaged system or relocate the system.

Retail Food Safety Program

Completed the following activities to promote food safety and prevent foodborne illness:

- Routine inspections: 419
- Follow-up inspections: 108
- Plan reviews – new construction: 9
- Plan reviews – remodel: 3
- Pre-operational inspections: 18
- Complaint investigations: 15
- Compliance proceedings: 16
- Investigated potential foodborne illness outbreaks: 5
- Students completed online Basic Food Safety class: 18
- 2,265 of the required 2,326 routine inspections were completed during the first half of the year. We are back on schedule to complete all the necessary inspections (4,530) since responding to last year’s fire and floods.

On-Site Wastewater Treatment System and Groundwater Protection Program

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:

- Final inspections: 36
- Soil and site evaluations: 30
- New permits issued: 22
- Repair permits issued: 7
- Application/design reviews: 25
- Pumper truck inspections: 2

Land-Use and Planning

- Thirteen El Paso County Development Services Division projects were submitted for review and comment. One of the projects is a request for a minor subdivision on a 2.7 acre parcel. The proposal is to construct 27 residential multi-family dwellings with private garages, and a small community structure to serve future residents. Comments from our review included a recommendation for radon resistant new construction, the need to obtain a Construction Activity Permit, and verifying water and wastewater treatment capacities of the water and wastewater district. A suggestion for improved walkability was also made due to the proximity of the project to two schools.

Air Quality Control Program

- Investigated eight complaints of excessive emissions (smoke or dust).
- Reviewed and approved five construction activity permits to assure that contractors have adequate fugitive dust control plans.
- Reviewed and approved two open burning permits to evaluate air quality issues.
- Attended a discussion regarding open burning at the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) weekly meeting. The BoCC requested County staff to develop a County Ordinance that addresses several fire safety concerns. We have been invited to participate in the discussion. Public health reviews open burn permits for air quality issues only.

Child care Inspection Program

Completed the following activities to prevent the spread of disease in licensed childcare facilities.

- Regular inspections: 13
- Follow up inspections to assure compliance: 9

Body Art Safety Program

Completed the following activities to prevent the spread of disease at body art facilities:

- The Body Art Advisory Group discussed online training for body artists and development of online resources to provide information to the public. The group also discussed proposed regulatory revisions and provided written material that will be evaluated and compiled into a single draft document.
- Regular inspections: 1
- Temporary event inspections: 1

Recreational Water Program

Completed the following activities to prevent the spread of disease in public pools and hot tubs.

- Regular inspections: 43
- Follow -up inspections to assure compliance: 4
- Complaint investigations: 2
- Field staff are focusing on seasonal pools and hot tub inspections to assure all facilities receive an inspection.

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

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP): There are 209 first time mothers enrolled in the program.

Strong and Healthy Families (SHF): The program received 26 referrals from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) case managers. 15 enrolled in class.

Maternal Child Health (MCH)

Child Health/ Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP):

- ECOP Public Health nurse facilitated the first in this series of the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) classes. Mountain Top Educational consultant presented two sessions: “No More Picky Eaters, Please” and “Stomp, Skip and Jump Activities.” Eleven child care centers and family child care homes were represented with a total of 14 participants. Mentoring visits will be provided afterwards, utilizing the 5210 evaluation survey.
- Working on an initial dissemination plan for the 5210 consistent obesity prevention campaign for internal programs at the agency. 5210 signifies; 5 fruits and vegetables daily, no more than 2 hours of recreational screen time daily, 1 hour of exercise daily and 0 sugar-sweetened beverages daily.
- The ECOP Public Health Nurse attended a two day training entitled “I am Moving, I am Learning.”

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

- Current caseload is 49. Acquired six new referrals this month and provided information and referrals to an additional four clients. One of the HCP Public Health Nurses attends weekly trans-disciplinary meetings with Early Intervention at The Resource Exchange to coordinate services.

Clinical Services:

- 300 visits in June of which 136 visits were initials, annuals or returning patients after one year or more.
- From July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014 provided direct services for 2,335 patients.
- Attended the 2014 State Health Department Family Planning Conference. The highlight of the conference was learning that Colorado’s teen birth rate dropped by 40% from 2009- 2013 driven by a State Health Department Initiative that provides Long Acting Reversible Contraceptive (LARC) methods to low income women in family planning clinics.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC): WIC has a client caseload of 14,931.

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

Tobacco Education Prevention and Partnership (TEPP)

- TEPP staff received Photovoice training from UC Denver Technical assistant. Photovoice is a process in which people use photo images to capture aspects of their environment and experiences and share them with others to encourage change. Representatives from six youth serving organizations were also in attendance. Youth coalitions plan to do Photovoice projects in Colorado Springs to demonstrate the problem of youth tobacco use.
- Met with representatives from various local youth-serving organizations to discuss parameters for a mini-grant program we would like to implement with numerous organizations in Colorado Springs. The program would involve a nine month tobacco prevention education curriculum with various engagement activities, including Photovoice projects and tobacco retailer scavenger hunts.
- TEPP proposal was selected by Leadership Pikes Peak Leading Edge Teen program to work on a project focused on youth access to tobacco in Colorado Springs. We met with teens to discuss the background on the project, the activities they could work on this summer, and to establish a regular meeting schedule.
- Facilitated the June Tobacco Education Coalition (TEC) meeting. Coalition members were presented with updates related to media and youth coalition efforts. They also participated in a “Window of Opportunity” timeline activity that demonstrated how the problem, policy, and politics affect one another by creating windows of opportunity.

- Provided tobacco cessation materials to Meadows Park Community Center to support their “Benching Litter and Beautifying Boundaries Day.” Part of the event focused on cigarette litter prevention and helping people quit using tobacco.
- During the month of June, EPCPH referred 10 clients to the Colorado QuitLine Fax Referral program for smoking cessation assistance. To date, TEPP has finalized two Quality Improvement projects: Outlining the steps taken to plan and implement a systems change process within Health Services and TB Clinic, and outlining the steps taken to write and implement new agency policy and procedures to promote tobacco cessation within EPCPH.
- Finalized production for a :30 TV commercial that will be shown on Fox 21.
- Ran radio campaigns on two stations during two weeks in June. 232 commercials aired, 363 live mentions, 206,800 impressions, reached 141,100 individuals
- There were approximately 2,500,000 impressions from smoking cessation related advertising on bus shelters and recycling bins.
- TEPP team member sent a letter to a local apartment management company in response to a complaint from a resident regarding secondhand smoke intrusion into a unit. The letter acknowledged receipt of the complaint, provided a link to helpful resources and materials, explained that the resident was advised of their rights and actions they could take to remedy the situation, and offered assistance to the management for addressing the issue.
- The Boys & Girls Club youth coalition met twice to discuss expectations with new coalition members. Students were presented a “hazards of smoking” demonstration.

Print News Media

06.24.14 – Colorado Springs Gazette, “[El Paso County Public Health boss Jill Law steps down.](#)” Estimated daily circulation, 72,800; 125,000 online.

06.30.14 – Colorado Springs Gazette, “[Two Colorado Springs children being treated after exposure to rabid bat.](#)” News release provided by El Paso County Public Health Office of Communication. Estimated daily circulation, 72,800; 125,000 online.

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.

06.30.14 – KOAA Channel 5 at 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. “Bat tests positive for rabies in El Paso County.” News release-based content. Local viewership: 57,908; estimated value: \$5,223.22.

06.30.14 – KKTU Channel 11 at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. “[Children Find Rabid Bat.](#)” News release-based content. Local viewership: 48,418; estimated value: \$2,877.46.

06.30.14 – KRDO Channel 13 at 4:30 p.m. “[Bat tests positive for rabies in El Paso County.](#)” News release-based content. Local viewership: 33,417; estimated value: \$443.85.

06.30.14 – KXRM Channel 21 at 4:30 p.m. “[Children find rabid bad in west Colorado Springs.](#)” Interview provided by Shannon Rowe, Communicable Disease/Epidemiology program manager. Local viewership: 44,312; estimated value: \$7,709.62.

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 June 1 and 30, our office received and answered/referred approximately **32** e-mails through our website.

Website statistics

According to Google Analytics, www.elpasocountyhealth.org had **9,674** unique visitors to the site with **18,732** pageviews (from June 1 to 30, 2014). The top 5 most visited pages were **birth and death records, home page, WIC, inspection reports and immunizations.**