

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

Acronym	Meaning	Acronym	Meaning
AFDO	Association of Food and Drug Officials	FCS	Fountain Community Health Services
ASQ	Ages and Stages Questionnaire	GWQS	Groundwater Quality Study
BOCC	Board of County Commissioners	HCP	A program for children and youth with special needs
CALPHO	Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials	MCH	Maternal Child Health
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	NFP	Nurse-Family Partnership
CEHA	Colorado Environmental Health Association	NTSB	National Transportation Safety Board
CHE	Community Health Educator	OWTS	Onsite Wastewater Treatment System
CHIP	Community Health Improvement Plan	PCMH	Partners for Children's Mental Health
CNC	Colorado-National Collaborative	PHQ	Patient Health Questionnaire
CSTE	Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists	PYD	Positive Youth Development
CTC	Communities That Care	TEPP	Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership
EH	Environmental Health	TSP	Teen Suicide Prevention
EHR	Electronic Health Record	WIC	Women, Infants and Children
EPCPH	El Paso County Public Health	YHD	Youth Health Development
EPR	Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)	YSUP	Youth Substance Use Prevention Planner
ESF 8	Emergency Support Function #8 - Public Health and Medical Services	USGS	United States Geological Survey (USGS)

**To:** Board of Health  
**From:** Susan Wheelan, M.B.A. Public Health Director  
**Date:** July 2019 (reflects June 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. 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) Community Health Educator (CHE) initiated a partnership with the Sand Creek Library of the Pikes Peak Library District to provide outreach, materials, and education regarding healthy eating and active living during playgroups.
- EPCPH hosted a successful Bike to Work Day station on the Sinton Trail behind the Citizens Service Center on June 26, 2019. Staff and volunteers served breakfast to and cheered on over 80 people who rode past our station on their way to work that day. Bike to Work Day is a community-wide activity that encourages commuting to work by bike, an activity that aligns with our strategic goal to *reverse the upward trend of population living at an unhealthy body weight*.
- The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) caseload for June was 12,743, a decrease of 38 participants from May. To reach those in our community who are eligible for WIC but not enrolled, WIC staff attended the Healthy Lifestyle Festival at the Fort Carson Commissary and the Fort Carson Baby EXPO held at Evans Army Community Hospital and continued the recruitment/retention efforts via the Happy Birthday Retention and Refer a Friend campaigns.
- To help reduce household food insecurity and increase access to a variety of healthy foods, an "Increasing WIC Benefit Redemption" training was provided to all WIC staff. The objective of the training was to improve the guidance provided to WIC clients to utilize their food benefits effectively, particularly related to language barriers, cultural preferences, food allergies and technology use errors.

**Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention**

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

- 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.

- The Development and Strategic Initiative Officer provided a behavioral health presentation related to our local Community Health Improvement Plan/behavioral health priorities at the June 19<sup>th</sup> State Board of Health meeting.
- 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 214 two-question Patient Health Questionnaires (PHQ-2s) and 8 referrals to AspenPointe for further evaluation and connections to meet their specific behavioral health needs.

### **Emerging Issues and Emergency Preparedness**

- Emergency Preparedness and Response team conducted a point of dispensing facility set-up drill. This drill is a grant requirement and is conducted to test public health's ability to notify, activate, and set up a facility in an established timeframe in order to support emergency mass prophylaxis to the population.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Coordinator co-facilitated an active shooter workshop for Chaffee County. The workshop was designed to help identify planning factors that will be integrated into an active shooter plan for the building.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Team completed all required public health emergency preparedness and cities readiness grant deliverables for fiscal year 2018-2019.

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

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

- Through the end of June, El Paso County had 71 outbreak-related hepatitis A cases. Other counties with outbreak cases include Fremont (11 cases), Pueblo (2 cases), Douglas (1 case), and Denver (1 case).
- EPCPH has conducted 58 outreach events from October 2018 through June 2019 and, in coordination with community partners including the El Paso Sheriff's Office, Penrose St. Francis parish nurses, and UC Health/Memorial Emergency Department, has administered almost 4,000 vaccines since the beginning of the outbreak in October 2018. This has been a formidable endeavor as all of Public Health's normal business functions in the Communicable Disease and Immunizations programs have continued during the time of the outbreak.

## Rabies

- The communicable disease program responded to 49 calls regarding possible rabies exposures. Ten raccoons and two bats were tested for rabies. All animals tested negative.

## Foundational Public Health Services

Foundational public health services include communicable disease prevention, investigation and control, environmental health (EH), maternal, child, adolescent, and family health, chronic disease and injury prevention, behavioral health promotion, and clinical care.

- MCH HCP, a program for children and youth with special needs, is currently serving 54 active care coordination clients. In June, Care Coordinators provided referrals to 12 community members, consulted with community partners on 11 cases and conducted two outreach events to educate the community on HCP services.
- Laboratory Performed 590 Bacteriological water tests, 371 for public water systems and 219 for private wells. Seventy-five water samples were assayed for inorganic anions. The Laboratory staff continues testing of the interface that connects the current laboratory information system with the new electronic health record to streamline ordering and reporting of lab tests within the health department.

## 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.

- Youth Substance Use Prevention Planner, who serves as Co-chair of the Public Health Transformation (PHT) Steering Committee, participated in the first of five *Community of Practice* webinars to begin the process of creating common communications messaging in support of Public Health Transformation.
- Teen Suicide Prevention (TSP) and Youth Health and Development (YHD) Planners received training in Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) facilitation from El Paso County Coroner's Office and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Child Fatality Prevention System staff.
- MCH Care Coordinators received training on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) to support the screening of children for developmental delays as well as mental health and de-escalation.
- South Central Region Epidemiologist attended the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) annual conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. CSTE

works to advance public health policy and workforce capacity for applied public health epidemiologists at the local, state and territorial levels in the United States through education, dissemination of information, and developmental support. CSTE promotes the effective use of epidemiologic data to guide public health practice and improve health.

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator attended a National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB) workshop in Denver. This workshop provided an overview of the NTSB mission and legislated mandates. It also provided information on the roles and responsibilities of public health pertaining to managing a family assistance center. The workshop provided perspectives from federal, state, and local partners.
- Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) program continues to review its current process and outcomes using data and stakeholder feedback. Specifically, the Operation and Maintenance section of the OWTS Regulations will formalize into a quarterly review program as a function of the Critical Need position. Additionally, a Certified Inspector Audit program is being developed to ensure industry consistency among vendor-certified inspectors.
- An Environmental Health staff member attended a multi-day Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) Conference in Atlanta, GA, to present about an emerging trend in the body art industry, to attend educational sessions for our Body Art Program, and to create new partnerships within her role as the Colorado Environmental Health Association's (CEHA's) President-Elect with AFDO. She participated on the body art committee and alliance during the conference, and the information gained will be helpful in furthering our relationships with local industry and in training our current staff on best practices in the body art industry.
- Two Program Assistants are now cross-trained and can work in both the Immunizations and Family Planning clinics. By cross training staff to work in both programs, we have increased capacity to serve our clients while gaining efficiency and cost savings.
- WIC staff are committed to developing future Registered Dietitians and maintaining strong relationships with partners that support public health. The final of the 13 dietetic interns of the 2018-2019 academic year completed her rotation June 21. Collectively, the interns spent the approximately 1380 hours observing WIC Registered Dietitians provide counseling to high-risk clients, working on assigned projects, completing training related to breastfeeding, nutrition counseling and public health and providing staff relief. Dietetic internships, both local and across state lines, encourage their interns to perform a rotation with El Paso County Public Health WIC. For this academic year, the interns came to us from: University of Northern Colorado, Eastern Michigan University, Penrose-St. Francis Health Services, Utah State University, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Gulf Coast Dietetic Internship (Biloxi, MS), Iowa State University and Priority Care Nutrition (Hingham, MA).
- The Nurse-Family Partnership and Maternal Child Health teams attended a training at The Resource Exchange. Staff trained on a developmental milestone screening tool and collaborated about early intervention therapies for our public health clients.

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

- Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) purchased laptop computers for use during client offsite visits and will begin charting and billing for Medicaid in Patagonia, the El Paso County Public Health Electronic Health Record (EHR). This will reduce paper charting and achieve efficiencies in the critical functions pertaining to billing for NFP services.

**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.

- 2018 El Paso County Public Health Annual Report was released, which provides an overview of key public health programs to both internal and external community partners.
- A one-month social media campaign was conducted to raise awareness about the increase in sexually-transmitted infections, prevention, and services available at Public Health. The campaign ads, which targeted men and women ages 18-26 on Facebook and Twitter, received a cumulative 311,561 views and 972 link clicks.
- The Office of Communication managed media inquiries pertaining to vaping and the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act. The estimated earned media value for these television interviews is \$3,285.70
- The agency's website [www.elpasocountyhealth.org](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org) had 8,016 new visitors in June, with 23,261 page views.
- The Lead Epidemiologist presented on rabies to emergency department physicians at Memorial Central to improve understanding of rabies risk assessment and administration of post-exposure prophylaxis.
- The Medical Director presented on hepatitis A at the Matthews Vu Medical Group Grand Rounds to inform the group on outbreak response activities.
- The Lead Epidemiologist conducted a lunch and learn for community partners about hepatitis A outbreak response.

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

- YSUP Planner facilitated the monthly meeting of the Fountain Community Services (FCS) group with Commissioner Longinos Gonzalez, Jr. as a guest speaker. 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. Communities that Care (CTC) began facilitating the group in 2018 when the previous leader retired.

- TSP Planner met with community members to discuss the background of the newly-established El Paso County Suicide Prevention Task Force Steering Committee and the Colorado-National Collaborative (CNC), task force composition, Steering Committee roles, and short- and long-term task force goals. 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. El Paso County is one of six counties across Colorado selected to participate in the CNC. EPCPH is working in collaboration with University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention, Silver Key, Inside/Out Youth Services, Family Care Center, and Pikes Peak United Way, among others, to advance community-wide suicide prevention efforts.
- TSP Planner and YHD Planner met with representatives from Partners for Children’s Mental Health (PCMH), a Children’s Hospital Colorado program that seeks to improve kids’ access to mental health care. Among the discussion topics were teen suicide prevention efforts and opportunities for PCMH to partner with the School Education/Training sub-group of the Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup to increase evidence-based suicide prevention programming and trainings in schools.
- Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) hosted a bi-monthly Tobacco-Free Alliance meeting on June 6. About 25 community members came together to network and learn more about the development of the tobacco prevention and education dashboard that is currently in development. Once completed, the dashboard will highlight various community partners and efforts to combat tobacco and vape use.
- Healthy Environment Planner presented, with Solid Rock Community Development Corporation, at the All American City Award and Conference on June 21 in Denver on a panel titled, “Community Partnerships to Promote Health Equity.” As a Healthy Places awardee, we shared our work related to the grant alongside two other Healthy Places-funded communities (Montebello and Commerce City)
- Regional Epi offered a presentation to South Central Region Emergency Management partners (Emergency Managers, American Red Cross, Colorado Springs Utilities) on the current outbreak of measles in the United States. This presentation covered the background of the disease, and the need to plan with community partners in the event of a case or outbreak in Colorado.
- Regional Epi and CDPHE Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response met with Colorado Springs Utilities to discuss Centers for Medicare and Medicaid EMpower data and how it can be used in planning for people with power requirements for medical devices during power outages.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator attended the Colorado Springs Utilities Annual Rampart Dam Exercise Planning Workshop. This workshop provided an opportunity for multiple agencies to come together to identify and set exercise priorities for the development of the annual Rampart Dam exercise

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator supported the Lake County full-scale exercise as an evaluator in the emergency operations center. The exercise simulated reunification following an active shooter at the high school. The coordinator attended the after-action meeting to discuss the findings of the exercise and identified gaps that have been integrated into the improvement plan.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinators provided a Public Health emergency preparedness program overview to the staff of the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management. The presentation provided information on Public Health as both a lead and support agency. In addition, roles and responsibilities of Public Health as ESF 8 lead was also presented and discussed.
- The Nurse-Family Partnership Community Advisory Board steering committee for infant mortality and low birthweight is in the process of developing a strategic framework to address infant mortality in El Paso County and Teller Counties. Nurse-Family Partnership nurses attended a Department of Human Services resource fair and built relationships with community members and behavioral health providers to better serve our mutual clients.

**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 Cost Assessment update: Program Managers and Planners were trained on how to input details into the Cost Assessment tool for their programs related to identifying the current cost of providing core public health services, and what additional funding and resources are needed to be able to fully implement services. EPCPH's Grant and Purchasing Coordinator compiled input from across the agency into a final tool and submitted it to Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO). Once completed, the cost assessment 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.

- Staff in the Office of Development and Strategic Initiatives joined colleagues from throughout Colorado (including representatives from the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials) at a Health Equity Advocacy Cohort convening hosted by The Colorado Trust in Colorado Springs the last week in June. Presentations and activities centered on a collective effort to reduce inequities in food access and housing affordability at both the state level and in our respective local communities. The convening represented a valuable opportunity to *expand community partnerships and participation in key*

- community collaborations, coalitions, committees, or other work groups that can influence health outcomes and policy* as identified in the Strategic Plan.
- Staff in the Office of Development and Strategic Initiatives joined colleagues across Colorado Springs at the Undoing Racism™ Workshop hosted by the Citizens Project with support from The Colorado Trust and Jody Alyn Consulting. Among the goals of this workshop were to understand the historical context for race and racial classifications in the United States and understand the role of community of community organizing and building effective multiracial coalitions as a means of undoing racism. This served as a valuable and informative convening to collaborate, connect, and discuss health equity with multiple community organizations.
  - MCH CHEs attended Diversity University a 40-hour training with the following objectives to understanding the meaning of implicit bias; how to identify implicit bias; keys to having courageous conversations; how to use civil discourse while working through implicit bias.
  - The Immunization clinic served 70 “walk-in” clients, and Family Planning clinic also served 70 “walk in” clients in the month of June. These walk-in clinic times help to break down barriers and improve access to healthcare for those who cannot make it in for a traditional scheduled appointment.
  - Nurse Family Partnership made 139 nurse home visits and 2 telehealth visits during the month of June. Visiting clients in their home decreases barriers to care.

### **Critical Needs Funding – 2 Quarterly (April - June) Report**

Recruited and hired four of the ten full-time employees with the additional (2019-2023) funding plan provided jointly by the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and the Board of Health to meet the core mandated services, health protection and safety needs of the County’s growing population. Hired a Retail Food Team Lead to increase capacity for the Retail Food Safety Program. Continuing to train employee to serve in this role. Hired an Immunization Public Health Nurse. This nurse has assisted with on-going outbreak response events in our county jail, a skilled nursing facility and two events on a smaller scale at a parole office and homeless shelter. We’ve increased nursing capacity, vaccinated over 500 high-risk clients, and maintained our regularly-scheduled immunization clinic during this time. With an increase in nursing staff, we are able to offer “walk-in” hep A vaccines Monday-Friday, and continue internal partnerships with our laboratory to vaccinate high-risk clients. By the end of June, we served 69% of the total number of clients served in 2018 in just 50% of the calendar year.

We are at various stages of recruiting, hiring and on-boarding other positions including the Chief Data Scientific Strategist, Applied Epidemiologist, Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator, On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems Inspector, Public Health Nurse Planner, and Administrative/Communication Specialists.

The Teen Suicide Prevention Planner position grant-funded through the State Innovation Model (SIM), ended in June. This position is sustained via core critical needs funding.

This will allow our agency to continue activities related to teen suicide prevention in El Paso County.

**El Paso County Strategic Plan Update: 2017-2021**

Strategy D, Objective 3: Continue to work collaboratively with other stakeholders, via the Groundwater Quality Study Committee, to study and protect groundwater quality and identify emerging issues through periodic monitoring, sharing data among stakeholders, and report to the BOCC annually. The Groundwater Quality Study Committee (GWQS) continues to meet quarterly, which includes stakeholders from the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Upper Black Squirrel Creek Basin, water districts (such as Cherokee Metro, and Woodman Hills), and other county agencies. The current Phase III scope of work from USGS, which is spread over four years, includes a plan to re-test the original 50 wells in Phase II. This plan to revisit the original 50 wells will provide data to show the change in constituents over time and to identify emerging issues.