

To: Board of Health

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

Date: March 17, 2014 (Reflects February 2014)

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*

The Healthy Community Collaborative (HCC) Steering Committee met and discussed promoting a unified initiative through HCC called “Let’s Go 5-2-1-0.” Input on this targeted HCC project was also sought from stakeholder task force leads and co-leads. The HCC will meet in May at which time the Steering Committee will present the initiative to collation members.

Deputy Director—*Dan Martindale*

Emergency Preparedness Program

- Emergency Preparedness staff was recently awarded additional funding to focus on improving public health capability 5: Mass Fatality. As a result, the staff will be reviewing mass fatality plans for public health in the five south central region counties. In this assessment, the additional funding will also allow for the purchase of some equipment that will further enhance this capability.
- Emergency Preparedness staff attended the Continuity of Operations planning workshop sponsored by the city of Colorado Springs. This planning effort will help enhance our capability to quickly continue the business of the Health Department after a disaster.
- Emergency Preparedness staff attended a workshop to discuss the structure, function, and processes related to the Operations Section in the City of Colorado Springs EOC.
- Emergency Preparedness staff participated in the Center for Disease Control local technical assistance review which is a requirement of the Cities Readiness Initiative grant. This review is a scored tool, and this year, El Paso County Public Health received a score of 80 percent, which is an important accomplishment in highlighting the steps we have taken to improve our ability to effectively respond to an anthrax threat.
- Emergency Preparedness staff conducted a redundant communications drill, testing the use of 800 MHz radios at each of the point of dispensing sites that might be used in a large scale outbreak response to quickly dispense medical countermeasures to our community.

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

Communicable Disease (CD) - reflects CD activities in February, 2014:

- Reportable infectious diseases - 35 infectious disease cases were reported and investigated: campylobacter (2), giardia (3), haemophilus influenza (2), chronic hepatitis B (4), influenza hospitalized (8), pertussis (7), Salmonella (1), shigella (1), strep pneumo invasive (3), varicella (3), and viral meningitis (1).
- Possible foodborne illness complaints: 4
- CD Staff investigated four outbreaks in February, all in long term care facilities (three norovirus and one unknown respiratory illness).
- CD Program responded to four calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals, or other rabies-related concerns. Rabies Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) was recommended for one person who was exposed to a bat.

Tuberculosis (TB) – reflects TB Program activities for February, 2014:

- New active TB cases investigated: 0
- New suspect active cases investigated: 1
- Cases on Direct Observed Therapy (DOT): 3
- Cases on Direct Observed Preventive Therapy (DOPT): 0
- Total DOT/DOPT visits: 29
- General TB skin tests done: TB - 54, IZ -9
- TB Blood tests (Quantiferon) done related to contact investigations: 1
- TB Skin tests done related to contact investigations: 0
- Contact investigations ongoing: 2
- Contacts evaluated/tested: 1
- Refugee and/or class B immigrant TB evaluations: 5
- Latent TB Infection (LTBI) cases under treatment: 7

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

Black Forest Fire Response and Recovery

- Environmental health (EH) continues to review on-site wastewater treatment system evaluations as part of the plan approval process that helps assure the property owner that the rebuilt structure will be connected to a system that is adequately sized, and wasn't damaged by the fire or fire-fighting activities.
- To date, 281 on-site wastewater treatment system evaluations of the 488 homes that were destroyed have been submitted for our review. Of the 281 OWTS evaluations, 49 have required a repair permit to either replace a damaged system or relocate the system.

EH Emergency Preparedness Training

One program manager and two environmental health specialists attended the Environmental Health Training in Emergency Preparedness course at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama. The course is a week-long training concerning issues that environmental health professionals must address during a disaster recovery such as floods, tornados and fires. The course is provided at no cost to local public health agencies.

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: 32
- OWTS soil and site evaluations: 25
- OWTS new permits issued: 14
- OWTS repair permits issued: 20
- OWTS application/design reviews: 26
- Pumper truck inspections: 5
- Complaints of surfacing sewage and/or system failure: 5
- OWTS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting was held on February 21. The TAG discussed the upcoming Board of Health Hearing regarding the draft OWTS Regulations - Chapter 8. The TAG also discussed reasons for delaying the effective date of the Transfer of Title Inspection section until January 1, 2015. Certification training dates for all licensed contractors, pumpers, and registered professional engineers were also outlined at the meeting.

School Laboratory Self-Certification Pilot Project

Staff have collaborated with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to conduct four high school laboratory inspections. Nine inspections will be conducted this spring at the 46 high schools which responded to the request to provide a lab safety self assessment. High schools to be inspected were chosen at random.

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: 293
- RFE follow-up inspections: 42
- RFE plan reviews – new construction: 11
- RFE plan reviews – remodel: 2
- RFE pre-operational inspections: 23
- RFE complaint investigations: 22
- RFE compliance proceedings: 8
- 31 students took advantage of our online Basic Food Safety class
- 25 students took our on-site Basic Food Safety class
- Program manager and director met with local food production leaders. Discussion was regarding local “backyard” farming of fresh fruits and vegetables to be sold at farmers markets, retail food establishments and food COOP’s. Safe handling and growing of fruits and vegetables guidelines was reviewed. There will be a larger stakeholder meeting in March and staff will attend.

Land-Use and Planning

- Eight El Paso County Development Services Division projects were submitted for review and comment in February.
- One of the projects proposed was a five-lot commercial development in the Glen Eagle area utilizing central water and wastewater services. Staff provided comments on the proposed development based on analysis of the water and wastewater treatment facilities ability to provide sufficient treatment. The developer was encouraged to use radon resistant new construction techniques, and to consider pedestrian access to the site in an effort to promote physical activity.

Air Quality Control Program

- Staff investigated three complaints of excessive smoke and dust.

- Staff reviewed and approved five construction activity permits to assure that contractors have adequate fugitive dust control plans.
- Staff reviewed and approved three open burning permits to evaluate air quality issues that may impact public health.

Childcare Inspection Program

Environmental health specialists completed the following activities to prevent the spread of disease in licensed childcare facilities.

- Regular inspections: 13
- Follow up inspection to assure compliance: 1
- Preoperational inspections: 1

Recreational Water Program

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

- Regular inspections: 40
- Follow-up inspections: 4

Body Art Safety Program

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

- Regular inspections: 2
- Plan reviews – new construction: 1

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

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP): As of February 28, 2014 there are 207 first time mothers enrolled in the program. Two new Nurse Home Visitors are in the process of building caseloads. Program Manager completed continuation grant application for FY 2014-2015 and submitted to Colorado Department of Human Services. Program will be notified in April regarding application outcome.

Strong and Healthy Families (SHF): Program received 28 referrals from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) case managers. Twelve new referrals enrolled in class; 13 clients previously enrolled continued to attend class; 21 clients attended class on a regular basis; total graduates to date in 2014: 13.

Maternal Child Health (MCH):

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 messaging that was developed by the CDPHE. The current message that is being promoted is “Getting Fit and Healthy As a Family.” It appears on our website and has been distributed through our community partners including Alliance for Kids and Child Care Connections.
- The Community Health Educator set up a three-case display at the Penrose Library focusing on Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL), My Plate, 5-2-1-0 (5 Fruits and Vegetables, no more than 2 hours of recreational screen time, 1 hour of physical activity and 0 sugar sweetened beverages daily) and the message to “drink more water and reduce sugary drinks.”
- The Community Health Educator collaborated with the Executive Team of the Colorado Community Center Collaborative who is also implementing 5-2-1-0 messaging.

- On February 15, 2014 the ECOP Public Health Nurse conducted the second Health Eating Active Living (HEAL) Class; this class focused on active play. Eight child care centers were represented with a total of 14 participants. A pre-assessment was administered during the class. Mentoring visits were provided afterwards, a post-assessment was administered and areas were identified where the centers can improve and where we can offer support. One additional class in the series will be conducted in March.

ABCD (Assuring Better Childhood Development) Developmental Screening:

- An ABCD stakeholder’s meeting was held with 26 participants in attendance. Work continues on a Developmental Screening Roadmap. State ABCD project manager met with the ABCD staff and attended the stakeholder’s meeting.

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

- The HCP Public Health Nurses provide care coordination to children with special needs. Our current caseload is 44. HCP Public Health Nurse attends weekly trans-disciplinary meetings with Early Intervention at The Resource Exchange to coordinate services.
- The HCP staff made a visit to Nursing and Therapy Services of Colorado to learn about their home health care services, a Medicaid waiver program and their Certified Nursing Assistant classes.
- HCP staff member from CDPHE conducted chart reviews with ECPH HCP staff.

Immunization/Travel Program:

- Four Insight “super users” from Immunizations attended two full days of on-site training with the vendor’s software expert. Less than two weeks later, these same Super Users provided classroom and hands-on training to the remainder of our end-users. Immunizations Clinic staff then held “mock clinics” to practice our new processes in preparation for implementing live encounters and client financial accounts. Successfully meeting numerous challenges, we met our “go-live” goal on February 28th.
- Two Immunization nurses attended a pivotal meeting of the Pikes Peak Flu and Immunization Coalition. In light of zero funding for this calendar year, the group decided to meet for networking quarterly rather than monthly. The Coalition’s goal of promoting access to vaccines and increasing immunization rates in El Paso and Teller counties remains.

Clinical Services: Clinical services were able to provide services for 214 visits.

- From July 2013 through February 2014 Clinical services has provided 1822 patients with services.
- Clinical services staff attended four days of training on site and went” live” February 28th using an electronic medical records process to register and check out patients.
- Clinical Manager attended the Pikes Peak Breast Coalition whose mission is providing resources and educational events aimed at preventing breast cancer. The committee is planning an educational event in May.
- Clinical Manager attended a community network of health care agencies collaborating to serve the underinsured and uninsured in our community by sharing resources, and updates.

Women, Infants and Children: January caseload: 14,089

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

Tobacco Education Prevention and Partnership (TEPP)

- Presented at the Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting information about the dangers of secondhand smoke, an overview of our partnership with the community centers (focusing on reducing use and initiation of tobacco by youth); and provided a recognition plaque for their efforts

to limit smoking in all city parks, trails, and open spaces and reducing public exposure to secondhand smoke.

- Preparations to implement the evidenced-based Ask, Advise, Refer, Colorado QuitLine Fax Referral policy for EPCPH were completed in February. The Health Department now has a sustainable agency policy for talking with each client about tobacco cessation and referring them for assistance, if desired. The systems change is being promoted through internal staff trainings, posters in clinic and employee areas. Implementation of the program is part of the agency's quality improvement efforts that support its strategic plan, ongoing accreditation efforts, and program goals for the Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership.
- Provided tobacco cessation materials to the Medical Director of the Methadone Clinic, from Colorado Treatment Services. The clinic's demographics are 5 percent LGBT, 20 percent over 55 who have smoked two packs per day for 40 years, 35 percent who are 18-24, 40 percent with co-occurring mental health disorders, and the rest are using e-cigarettes. CQL brochures, quit kits, and magnets were given to the clinic. In addition, several other brochures were shared including topics such as secondhand smoke, chewing tobacco, and cost calculators.
- Attended the Shaping Policy for Health: Assessing and Framing the Policy Problem training at UC Denver Anschutz Medical Campus. This training provided an overview of public health policy development and steps for implementation.
- Met with Pueblo TEPP staff to discuss the steps they took to pass a non-cigarette tobacco retailer license in Pueblo as well as enforcement and ideas to strengthen our policy efforts in Colorado Springs and enforcement efforts in Fountain and Manitou Springs through collaboration.
- Attended a Retail Mapping/Monitoring Advisory Group meeting hosted by the State Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (STEPP). We reviewed the results of the grantee needs assessment survey, and discussed progress on the development of the Colorado store mapper and timeline for implementation.
- Met with the Tobacco Education Coalition (TEC) policy committee to discuss policy efforts and prioritize youth access provisions we would like to pursue alongside a non-cigarette tobacco retailer license. Input from this meeting will be used to shape ongoing policy work.
- Met with Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services staff to discuss implementation of curriculum on the impacts of tobacco on youth at Colorado Springs community centers; and details of involving youth in doing art work to be used in the city park no smoking signage. Lessons will be integrated into their routine programming in the hopes of engaging youth and growing our youth coalition.

Communication Support

Print News Media

02.10.14 – The Gazette, “Turn off the TV; play to get adults, children fit.” Article provided by Danielle Oller. Estimated daily circulation, 77,000.

02.24.14 – The Gazette, “Smoking Ban Signs Erected” Article provided by Pamela Zubeck. Estimated weekly circulation, 36,000.

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.

02.25.14 – KXRM (Fox) at 6:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Public Health recognizes El Paso County restaurants with Excellence in Food Safety. Interview provided by Tom Gonzales, Environmental Health Division Director, MPH, RHES. Local viewership: 24,118; estimated value: \$5,960.94.

02.24.14 – KRDO Channel 13 at 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Influenza tapering off. Interview provided by Bill Letson, M.P.H., M.D., Medical Director. Local viewership: 28,698; estimated value: \$6915.90.

External Online Media

02.25.14 – KXRM (Fox21) “Restaurants receive food safety distinction in El Paso County” Article by Kristyn Leon. 17 facebook shares, 8 twitter shares, 14 email shares and 40 facebook recommendations.

Communication Support

- 2013 Annual Report – develop/edit content, coordination and guide layout/design.
- Facilitate selection of media vendors from TEPP FY14 request for proposals.
- Formatted Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Regulation for Board of Health Regulations.
- Created Vital Statistics electronic form

Social Media/Online digital media

The Office of Communication provides content management for social media platforms.

February content included: Tobacco prevention, healthy eating and active living, heart risk awareness, dental health and macular degeneration. Facebook: 463 “likes; Twitter: 1,022 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 February 1 and 28, our office received and answered/referred approximately 37 emails through our website.

Website statistics

According to Google Analytics, www.elpasocountyhealth.org had 9,034 unique visitors to the site with 19,497 pageviews (from February 1, to February 27, 2014). The top 5 most visited pages were birth and death records, home page, WIC, food safety, and retail food establishments.