

To: Board of Health

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

Date: November 18, 2013 (Reflects October 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 has implemented a new process to improve the timeliness of required CPR certification for applicable employees. The Quality Improvement Team consists of 15 multi-skilled Public Health employees charged with the responsibility of developing, implementing, evaluating and reporting quality improvement projects. Public Health Accreditation emphasizes the importance of ongoing quality improvement, and defines quality improvement in public health as a deliberate and defined ongoing effort to achieve measurable improvements in efficiency, effectiveness, performance, accountability, outcomes and other indicators of quality in services or processes. The National Network of Public Health Institutes has invited EPCPH to present at an Open Forum for "Quality Improvement in Public Health" in November.

The Community Health Improvement Plan was updated and forwarded to Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The Public Health Act (Senate Bill 194) and accreditation requires public health agencies complete a community health improvement plan (CHIP) for their jurisdictions every five years. El Paso County Public Health's 2012-2017 Community Health Improvement Plan is available on our website.

Deputy Director—*Dan Martindale*

Emergency Preparedness and Response:

Emergency Preparedness and Response Staff continue to participate in the strategic planning process for the newly formed health care coalition, Regional Medical Response System.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Staff facilitated an after-actions conference for both the Black Forest Fire and the seasonal flash flooding events in El Paso County. The information gleaned from this conference will be used to write an after-actions report and improvement plan.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Staff attended the two-day semiannual Regional Staff Meeting hosted by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. This is a biannual meeting in which public health emergency preparedness staff throughout the state of Colorado meet to discuss the current contracts,

planning, exercising and to discuss recent events that have occurred throughout the state. Several agencies presented on the recent flooding events in the northern region and discussed the obstacles and lessons learned for Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8. El Paso County presented findings from the Community Assessment for Public Health Response (CASPER) flood preparedness survey conducted in April this year.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Program Manager was involved in this year's Project Public Health Recognition program. She attended the National Association of City and County Health Officials meeting in Chicago to peer review emergency preparedness documents for health departments from around the United States.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Staff attended the Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership (CEPP) meeting. This meeting focused on the challenges encountered by local families and businesses, as well as the hurdles that remain part of the long-term recovery process in the wildfires and floods of the past two summers.

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

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

- Reportable infectious diseases - 39 infectious disease cases were reported and investigated: campylobacter (7), giardia (3), chronic hepatitis B (5), pertussis (2), shigella (1), strep pneumo invasive (7), varicella (9), and viral meningitis (5).
- Possible foodborne illness complaints: 9
- CD Program investigated three outbreaks in October, all GI illness (norovirus or suspect norovirus) in long-term care facilities.
- CD Program responded to 39 calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals, or other rabies-related concerns. From the animals involved in those inquiries, eight were tested for rabies (four cats, two bats, one fox and one skunk); one cat tested positive for rabies. Confirmatory testing at CDC is pending, and if the test is confirmed this would be the first positive rabies test in a cat in El Paso County since 1966.
- Ten persons were recommended for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP): two adults exposed to raccoons, and eight adults exposed to the above mentioned tentatively positive cat.

Tuberculosis (TB) – reflects TB Program activities for October, 2013:

- New active TB cases investigated: 0
- New suspect active cases investigated: 1
- Contact investigations ongoing: 1
- Contacts evaluated/tested: 4
- TB Skin tests done related to contact investigations: 0
- TB Blood tests (Quantiferon) done related to contact investigations: 4
- Cases on Direct Observed Therapy (DOT): 7
- Cases on Direct Observed Preventive Therapy (DOPT): 9
- Total DOT/DOPT visits: 95
- Latent TB Infection (LTBI) cases under treatment: 7
- Refugee and/or class B immigrant TB evaluations: 4

Black Forest Fire Response and Recovery

One hundred and twenty-one 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 the 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 is still functioning. To date, 201 on-site wastewater treatment system evaluations out of the 487 homes that were destroyed have been submitted for review.

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: 455
- RFE Follow-Up Inspections: 82
- RFE Plan Reviews – New Construction: 10
- RFE Plan Reviews – Remodel: 14
- RFE Pre-Operational Inspections: 34
- RFE Complaint Investigations: 26
- RFE Compliance Proceedings: 10
- 35 students took advantage of our online Basic Food Safety class.
- 49 students took our onsite Basic Food Safety class.
- The division sponsored the Colorado Plan Reviewer's Committee meeting. The committee meets three times per year to discuss regulatory consistency and challenges related to retail food establishment and child care facility plan reviews. The committee consists of representatives from local public health agencies, as well as the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.
- Food Safety Advisory Group discussed changing the reporting date for the Excellence in Food Safety recognition program to January 1- December 31 of each year in order to capture the entire year instead of the current 11 months of data. Group also discussed the proposed 2014 Board of Health Fees regarding the Retail Food program. No one was in opposition of the proposed fees.
- Standardization and Training Officer was restandardized by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for consistency within the Retail Food Program. Standardization is every three years.

Childcare Inspection Program

- Regular Inspections: 9
- Preoperational Inspections: 1
- Team met to begin developing a logic model that will be used to outline program components and activities, identify stakeholders, and establish short-term and long-term program outcomes.

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: 36
- OWTS Soil and Site Evaluations: 24
- OWTS New Permits Issued: 8
- OWTS Repair Permits Issued: 34

- OWTS Design Reviews: 48
- Pumper Truck Inspections: 4
- Complaint Investigations: 4
- On October 24 the OWTS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met to discuss the proposed 2014 Board of Health OWTS fees, and the first draft of the El Paso County OWTS Regulations. The group discussed the fees and no members were in opposition of the proposed fee schedule. The group gave a unanimous recommendation for the proposed 2014 OWTS fee schedule.

The local OWTS regulation revision has been ongoing for several months, and because the regulation changes proposed are larger in scale than previous OWTS regulation revisions, we invited several other stakeholders to the meeting. In addition to the stakeholders that have comprised the TAG over the last few years, representatives from the Home Builders Association, the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department, the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, the Pikes Peak Association of Realtors and The Affiliation of Commercial Contractors Association were also invited. Input from all stakeholders that might be affected by the OWTS regulation changes is crucial for the development of a local OWTS regulation to be understood and accepted.

Recreational Water Program

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

- Regular Inspections: 27
- Follow-up Inspections: 2
- Plan Reviews for New Public Pool/Hot Tub: 2
- Complaint Investigation: 1

Body Art Safety Program

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

- Regular Inspections: 5
- Temporary Event Inspections: 2
- Complaint Investigations: 2

Air Quality Control Program

- Staff investigated two complaints of excessive smoke, dust or odor.
- Issued four construction activity permits to assure that contractors have approved fugitive dust control plans.
- Reviewed six open burning permits to evaluate air quality issues that can impact public health; three applications were approved and three were denied due to proposals to burn unapproved materials or because permits were not required. Applicants can apply for an open burn permit online and the permit is no charge.

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

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP): October caseload: 203. Two Nurse Home Visitors provided training to their colleagues regarding client graduation support. Two newly hired Nurse Home Visitors attended training at the National Service Office in Denver. They will complete initial stages of program orientation and begin building caseload in mid-November 2013. Nurse Home Visitors attended training entitled “Teen Brain under Construction” provided by Community Outreach Manager from Cedar Springs Hospital.

Strong and Healthy Families (SHF): In October the program received 21 referrals from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) case managers. Fourteen new referrals enrolled in class; 18 clients previously enrolled continued to attend class; 18 clients attended class on a regular basis (56% of enrolled clients). Total graduates to date in 2013: 43.

Maternal Child Health (MCH):

- **Child Health/ Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP):** The Community Health Educator is working with the Public Health Office of Communications on promoting the consistent early childhood obesity prevention messages that were developed by the Colorado Department of Health and Environment. “Rethink Your Drink- Choose Water” was chosen for the October message and was published on the Health Department website, the Gazette’s Fresh Ink, New Falcon Herald and Colorado Springs Kids. A video PowerPoint is being played on closed-circuit TV within the Health Department and it appeared on social media sites. This ECOP message was also shared with community partners and promoted through our internal clinic sites. The Community Health Educator facilitated the Healthy Communities Collaborative steering and messaging committee meetings in October.
- **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 52. We received six new referrals this month. The HCP Family Support Specialist attended a Patient Advocacy Training 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. The MCH Program Manager attended an HCP training in Florence on the computer system changes, conducted a site visit with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and submitted the MCH annual report for fiscal year 2013.

Immunization/Travel Program: Immunizations Program successfully met federal and state requirements during our bi-annual Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program site visit. The inspection covered all aspects of adherence to standards, from eligibility criteria/guidelines to vaccine storage and handling.

Immunizations staff completed a trial of “TravelHealth 101,” an online company that provides basic education regarding general international travel. Clients can view a 25-minute video that reinforces and supplements information received in Travel Clinic. A proposal to incorporate TravelHealth 101 into our services at minimal agency cost is circulating.

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

Tobacco Education Prevention and Partnership (TEPP)

TEPP team met with Vice President of Operations and Director of Care Coordination, Peak Vista Community Health Centers to discuss implementation of a Colorado Quitline fax referral system and a smoke-free campus policy among all Peak Vista clinics. Peak Vista will be working with the TEPP team to use an assessment tool to gauge each clinic’s readiness to implement tobacco cessation counseling efforts.

TEPP team met with technical assistance providers for the State Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership to discuss the best methods for approaching the issue youth tobacco access in Colorado Springs using policy. We also discussed the results from the key informant interviews and community poll conducted by SE2 and how that information may shape our policy work.

TEPP team met with representatives from Pikes Peak Community College, the American Cancer Society, and the Colorado Springs Fire Department to discuss plans for the Great American Smokeout. This event will take place on November 21. We will be working with community partners to encourage tobacco users to make a plan to quit, or to plan in advance and quit smoking that day.

TEPP team met with Vice President of Operations, Director of Care Coordination, Peak Vista Community Health Centers and Assistant Vice President of Clinical Operations, Peak Vista Community Health Centers to become oriented with the clinical services that Peak Vista offers, and tour some of their clinics. The visit provided insight on how a Colorado Quitline fax referral system may be integrated into their clinical operations.

TEPP began planning for media and advertising efforts for fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014).

In addition to the advertising efforts in 17 counties in southeast Colorado, EPCPH is currently running three campaigns:

- Greener Corners: TEPP has 15 ads on recycling bins in the downtown area, as well as many community parks to promote the Colorado QuitLine and educate parents/caregivers about the harmful effects of secondhand smoke in children. This six month campaign began in June and ends in December.
- Lamar Outdoor Advertising: TEPP staff secured seven billboards to promote the Colorado QuitLine and educate parents/caregivers about the harmful effects of secondhand smoke in children. These ads are primarily located in lower-income areas. The five month campaign concludes in November 2013.
- Uview Media: The 13-month campaign consists of 70 restroom ads, gas station pump toppers at five stores, and 70,000 bar beverage coasters. Locations for ads are focused on lower-income areas of Colorado Springs to target key audiences. This campaign launched in June 2013 and concludes in June 2014. The ads promote the Colorado QuitLine and educate parents/caregivers about the harmful effects of secondhand smoke in children.

TEPP staff met with the following community partners: Pikes Peak Community College (PPCC), American Cancer Society (ACS) and Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) on October 30 to coordinate and plan a Great American Smokeout event. The event is scheduled on November 21 and will be held at PPCC. The ACS marks the Great American Smokeout as a day to encourage smokers to make a plan to quit, or to plan in advance and quit smoking that day. KILO will have a live remote with DJ Zakk to help draw people to the event. Zakk will encourage people to “Smash the Pack” and quit smoking. CSFD will be offering cardiovascular risk reduction screenings and ACS and EPCPH will be providing education materials and tobacco quit kits.

Communication

Print News Media

10.01.13 – Colorado Springs Kids, “Rethink Your Drink – Choose Water.”

10.10.13 – Tri Lakes Tribune, “Flu Season is Here – Public Health urges people to get flu vaccine now.”

Information provided by Office of Communication.

10.10.13 – Colorado Springs FreshInk, “Decrease Screen Time to Give Your Child a Healthier Life,” written by Office of Communication.

10.15.13 – The Gazette, “After tough season last winter, flu vaccine push begins.” Interview provided by Bill Letson, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director. Estimated daily circulation: 77,000

10.22.13 – The Gazette, “Health board nixes needle exchange startup in Colorado Springs.” Interview provided by Jill Law, R.N., B.S.N., M.H.A., Public Health Director. Estimated daily circulation: 77,000.

10.25.13 – The Gazette, “Rabid kitten discovered in El Paso County.” Interview provided by Marigny Klaber, MSc, South Central Region Epidemiologist. 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.

10.01.13 – KOAA (NBC) News 5 at 10 p.m. Retail food establishment inspections in El Paso County. Interview provided by Tom Gonzales, M.P.H, R.E.H.S, Director, Environmental Health Division. Local viewership: 46,746; Estimated publicity value: \$3,759.

10.15.13 – KOAA (NBC) News 5 at 5 p.m. Flu season prevention tips and information. Interview provided by Bill Letson, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director. (Viewership and estimated value unavailable.)

10.18.13 – KRDO (ABC) Channel 13 at 6 p.m. Hantavirus symptoms and prevention steps. Interview provided by Bill Letson, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director. (Viewership and estimated value unavailable.)

10.21.13 – KOAA (NBC) News 5 at 6 p.m. Needle exchange program voted down. Interview provided by Jill Law, R.N., B.S.N., M.H.A., Public Health Director.

10.28.13 – KOAA (NBC) News 5 at 5 p.m. Reported case of cat with rabies in El Paso County. Interview provided by Bill Letson, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director. (Viewership and estimated value unavailable.)

Monthly Article

“Decrease Screen Time to Give Your Child a Healthier Life,” written by Office of Communication.

News Releases

10.09.13 – Flu Season is Here – Public Health Urges People to Get Flu Vaccine Now

10.25.13 – El Paso County Public Health Confirms First Reported Case of Rabies in Domestic Cat Since 1966

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 October 1 and 31, our office received and answered approximately 102 emails through our website.

Website statistics

According to Google Analytics, www.elpasocountyhealth.org had 7,246 unique visitors to the site with 20,323 pageviews (from October 5 to November 4, 2013). The top 5 most visited pages were birth and death records, WIC, inspection reports, retail food establishments, and immunizations.