

To: Board of Health

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

Date: September 16, 2013 (Reflects August 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 was one of five high-performing health departments to receive national accreditation in 2013. El Paso County Public Health has become the first public health agency in Colorado to earn national accreditation status by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The total number of PHAB-accredited health departments across the United States is 19.

PHAB is an independent organization that administers the national public health accreditation program. To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of public health quality standards and measures.

Deputy Director—*Dan Martindale*

Emergency Preparedness and Response:

- Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) staff attended the wildfire debrief session held at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. This session was a chance to review lessons learned and successful outcomes from the various response efforts during the 2013 wildfire season and the Emergency Support Function 8 interface with the state office of emergency management and the locals.
- Responded to the emergency operations center for the flash flood in the Manitou Springs area.
- Organized and participated in a Zumro tent drill with the El Paso County Community Animal Rescue Team (CART). The tents would be deployed in the event that an animal shelter was needed in conjunction with the Red Cross Shelter.
- EPR Program Manager presented a well-received video on the Waldo and Black Forest Fire Public Health response during the 5th Annual Volunteer Capacity Building Workshop in Breckenridge, Colorado.
- EPR staff attended Incident Command System Refresher training. This was a one day overview of the incident command system to ensure that those who are called to report to the emergency operations center or other parts of an emergency will be familiar with the system.
- Staff participated in the 4th annual community preparedness night at the Sky Sox game.

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

Communicable Disease (CD) - reflects CD investigative activities in August, 2013

- Reportable infectious diseases: 68 infectious disease cases were reported and investigated: botulism, infant (1), campylobacter (13), cryptosporidiosis (2), giardia (4), hepatitis A (1), acute Hepatitis B (1), chronic hepatitis B (5), Legionellosis (2), malaria (1), pertussis (7), Salmonella (12), shigella (1), Shiga-toxin producing E. coli (STEC) (1), strep pneumo invasive (3), varicella (7), and viral meningitis (7).
- Possible foodborne illness complaints: 12
- CD Program responded to 55 calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals, or other rabies-related concerns. From the animals involved in those inquiries, 47 were tested for rabies (30 skunks, 10 bats, 3 foxes, 2 raccoons, 1 cat, and 1 fawn); 3 bats, 1 fox and 1 skunk tested positive for rabies.
- Three persons from one household were recommended post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) due to possible exposure to a rabid bat.
- The large number of skunks tested mostly reflects enhanced surveillance at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.

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

- New active TB cases investigated: 1
- New suspect active cases investigated: 0
- Contact investigations ongoing: 7
- Contacts evaluated/tested: 56
- TB Skin tests done related to contact investigations: 0
- TB Blood tests (Quantiferon) done related to contact investigations: 56
- Cases on Direct Observed Therapy (DOT): 8
- Cases on Direct Observed Preventive Therapy (DOPT): 11
- Total DOT/DOPT visits: 103
- Latent TB Infection (LTBI) cases under treatment: 12
- Refugee and/or class B immigrant TB evaluations: 3

Laboratory - *Jean Hurd, M.T., Public Health Laboratory Director*

- An El Paso County Public Health Laboratory representative attended a drinking water testing equipment seminar and water chemistry lecture at the Colorado Springs Utility laboratories. This meeting provided an opportunity to ask questions regarding our own environmental applications from experts at Thermo Scientific, a developer of technology for drinking water testing.
- Public Health Laboratory personnel assisted the Tuberculosis (TB) Department with a new community contact investigation and performed 67 Quantiferon TB blood tests during the month of August.

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

Manitou Springs and Ute Pass Flash Floods

- The day after the flash flood, Environmental Health Specialists (EHS) conducted site visits on 15 retail food establishments that were impacted by the flood and/or electric outage for food safety and reopened facilities when possible.
- From August 13 – August 15, EHS manned the Public Health information booth at the Manitou Springs Disaster Assistance Center. EHS answered questions on safe cleanup, mold concerns, and handed out N95 masks, heavy duty bags, and educational materials.
- Environmental health specialists visited the communities of Cascade, Chipita Park and Green Mountain Falls on August 23, in response to the flash flood the previous night. Information on tetanus, debris

cleanup, and mold were provided to numerous residential and commercial properties affected. Information was also given to the Town Clerk of Green Mountain Falls for distribution.

Black Forest Fire Response and Recovery

- The on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS) team has been involved with the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department (PPRBD) and the rebuilding effort in the Black Forest. In August, 14 of the 35 plans for rebuilding were submitted for outside agency reviews. The electronic process of submitting septic system evaluations through our website has helped save contractor's time and effort in having their plans reviewed, and then signed off and approved without having to visit our office.

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: 380
- RFE follow-up inspections: 90
- RFE plan reviews – new construction: 11
- RFE pre-operational inspections: 32
- RFE complaint investigations: 22
- RFE compliance proceedings: 2
- Fourteen students took our online Basic Food Safety class.
- Eighteen students took our onsite Basic Food Safety class.
- The division worked in cooperation with the communicable disease program to investigate two restaurants suspected of being potential sources of foodborne illness.
- Food Safety Advisory Group meeting was held on August 8, 2013. Group discussed the hiring of temporary staff for the Environmental Health division as well as members reaching out to other retail license holders to participate in the group and cultural awareness.

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: 43
- OWTS Soil and Site Evaluations: 32
- OWTS New Permits Issued: 16
- OWTS Repair Permits Issued: 24
- OWTS Design Reviews: 44
- Pumper Truck Inspections: 5
- Complaint Investigations: 4
- On August 16, the OWTS Team met with the OWTS Program Manager at Tri County Health Department to coordinate our local OWTS regulation revision efforts. The goal of the meeting was to try and minimize the variation between the two regulation drafts. This is done in an effort to help our licensed OWTS installers that may also be licensed with Tri County Health Department.
- On August 22, the OWTS Team met with local sand/gravel providers, septic tank manufacturers, and other OWTS industry representatives. The meeting was held to remind the industry of the impending changes in the local regulations prior to their implementation.
- On August 28, the OWTS Team met with the OWTS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to outline the input that the OWTS TAG regulation revision subcommittee put together over the past few months. The TAG will be provided with a draft of our local OWTS regulations in about a month, and will have a

couple of weeks to provide any additional comments they may have prior to regulation submittal to the Board of Health.

Air Quality Control Program

- Staff investigated seven complaints of excessive smoke, dust or odor.
- Issued three construction activity permits to assure that contractors have approved fugitive dust control plans.
- Issued two open burning permits to evaluate air quality issues that can impact public health. Applicants can apply for an open burn permit online. The permit is at no charge for applicants.

Water Recreation Program

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

- Regular inspections: 36
- Follow-up inspections: 5

Child care Inspection Program

- Regular Inspections: 12
- Follow 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: 9
- Pre-operational Inspections: 1
- Complaint Investigations: 2

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

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP):

- Caseload: 212.
- Eight nurses participated in Manitou Springs tetanus vaccination clinic on Aug 13, 2013 in response to the flood.

Strong and Healthy Families (SHF): In August, the program received 28 referrals from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) case managers.

- 15 new referrals enrolled in class
- 8 clients previously enrolled continued to attend class
- 14 clients attended class on a regular basis
- Graduates in August: 6
- Total graduates to date in 2013: 38

Child Health/Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP): The Community Health Educator and Child Health Public Health Nurse continue working in the child care area where we are focusing some of our obesity prevention efforts. This includes organizing obesity prevention trainings for child care providers. ECOP staff participated in the state-wide Healthy Child Care Colorado meeting in Denver and local Alliance for Kids committee meetings. The Community Health Educator facilitated the August Healthy Communities Collaborative (HCC) meeting.

ABCD (Assuring Better Childhood Development) Developmental Screening: The Public Health Nurse continues making contacts with additional agencies, therapists and individuals. The next meeting is scheduled for September 24, and will continue bringing together stakeholders who are involved in screening and referring children with developmental delays. Public Health Nurse is a member of the newly formed Autism Taskforce.

Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (HCPC): The HCPC Public Health Nurses provide care coordination to children with special needs. Current caseload is 62 children. HCPC picked up seven new referrals this month. The MCH administrative coordinator continues in her orientation for her new role as the Family Support Specialist. She and the Program Manager had two meetings with The Resource Exchange this month to work out a system of HCPC referrals for children transitioning out of the Early Intervention system. She is also attending the bi-weekly Insight computer training sessions. One of the HCP Public Health Nurses attends weekly trans-disciplinary meetings with Early Intervention at The Resource Exchange to coordinate services. HCPC staff attended the Break Time Respite Advisory Board meeting.

The Maternal Child Health Program: The MCH staff meeting this month included a presentation from the Department of Human Services with a discussion on how we can better coordinate services with child welfare caseworkers. MCH staff attended the Pikes Peak Flu and Immunization Coalition presentation on pertussis. The MCH nurses staffed the tetanus immunization clinics in Manitou Springs on August 13 and 14, 2013.

Immunization/Travel Program:

- The Immunizations team attended a Pikes Peak Flu and Immunization Coalition (PPFIC)-sponsored educational event. PPFIC's target audience included childcare workers and the presentations focused on fifth dose of dTaP for children to protect from pertussis. El Paso County Public Health contributed 100 vouchers for Tdap vaccine for uninsured/under-insured childcare workers.
- With logistics support, the Immunizations Clinic rapidly deployed to provide tetanus vaccinations to the residents of Manitou Springs after flooding in mid August. At a prominent Manitou location, Public Health vaccinators administered 386 tetanus shots in two days. Residents were then served on a walk-in basis at the Immunization Clinic for a total vaccination count of 394.
- Immunizations team members were key players in the Insight software version upgrade. Staff spent many hours preparing and then testing the system after a "go-live" to the hosted environment on August 26.
- In August, tuberculosis screening walk-in hours were on Tuesdays only in Immunizations Clinic; nurses placed and read 51 tests.

Clinical Services:

- Clinic Manager attended the quarterly State Health Department Title X Family Planning Meeting. Focus of the conference was on Title X Family Planning clinics and the Affordable Care Act enhancing medical services for qualifying Medicaid expansion population and becoming a successful medical partner in the Health Market Exchange.
- Clinical Services provided 323 qualifying visits for the month of August. Qualifying visits are specific procedures identified Family Planning at the State Health Department to include initial visits, annual visits, pregnancy screening and counseling, and counseling of methods of birth control including abstinence.
- In response to the flooding in Manitou Springs, on August 9, Clinical Services staffed the tetanus clinics to ensure people are current on their tetanus vaccinations.

Women, Infants and Children: Caseload for July 2013 was 14,879.

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

Tobacco Education Prevention and Partnership (TEPP)

- TEPP hosted a “Not on Tobacco” (NOT) training with a tobacco program manager from the American Lung Association.
- Developed a training guide to assist clinics in ordering tobacco cessation material from the www.COhealthResources.org website. This will allow the clinics to order tobacco cessation materials that are specific to their individual clinic’s needs. All materials can be ordered and shipped at no cost.
- Provided a tobacco cessation presentation at the Coordinated Access to Community Health (CATCH) meeting. The CATCH program offers donated medical services and prescription assistance to low income, underinsured, and uninsured residents. The training included local and state data referring to the tobacco burden in our community. Tobacco cessation resources such as Colorado QuitLine (CQL), CoQuitMobile.org, and www.tobaccofreeco.org were shared with the group.
- Received a Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act (CCIAA) complaint regarding a violation of the 15-foot rule and have been working with the proprietors of the business. This complaint is currently ongoing.
- Met with Ace Hardware Human Resources Manager about going tobacco free in January 2014. Ace Hardware has approximately 200 employees, ranging in ages 18-50. According to Ace management, a large number of employees use tobacco. Ace Hardware will be eliminating all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, from the property. Ace Hardware has biometric screenings in October and is interested in providing resources from the CQL and CDPHE at that time.
- TEPP staff developed an implementation plan for a tobacco cessation and referral policy for clients of EPCPH. The first step will be to complete an internal assessment by meeting with clinical program managers to determine what kind of tobacco cessation counseling is currently being done in the clinics. We will then compile their feedback and present it to the Tobacco Cessation Committee before moving forward with next steps.
- TEPP staff met with the Vice Narcotics and Intelligence (VNI) Comander of the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) to discuss the enforcement of CCIAA complaints. Education is stressed over enforcement, however, if there is willful misconduct then CSPD will get involved. There will be a process followed that includes an initial letter from EPCPH, if the the offender is still in violation a letter will be sent from CDPHE. If the offender is still in violation after the first two letters, CSPD will send a letter and apply any necessary fine(s).
- TEPP staff participated at a marketing table at Sky Sox stadium. Attendees were given information on cessation, the dangers of tobacco, and resources to help people quit.

Communication Support

- Developed public information materials for TB investigation.
- Assisted with development of Early Childhood Obesity Prevention flyer/brochure for child care providers.
- Assisted with development of Colorado Healthcare Communicators Gold Leaf Award entry for EPCPH’s “Don’t Get Benched” multimedia campaign.
- Developed Black Forest fire recovery PowerPoint Presentation for Public Health.
- Provided public information for free Tetanus Clinics in Manitou Springs.

News Releases

08.01.13 – First Rabid Fox Found in Southwestern El Paso County

08.09.13 – Rabid Fox Attacks Resident in Southwest Colorado Springs

08.12.13 – El Paso County Public Health Providing Free Tetanus Vaccination in Manitou Springs

08.13.13 – El Paso County Public Health to Provide Second Tetanus Vaccination Clinic in Manitou Springs

08.27.13 – El Paso County Public Health one of five high-performing health departments to receive national accreditation in 2013

Print News Media:

- 08.01.13 – The Gazette**, “Road-killed fox is first rabid animal found west of I-25.” Interview provided by Shannon Rowe, M.P.H., Communicable Disease Program Manager. Estimated daily circulation: 77,000.
- 08.06.13 – The Gazette** (online story, gazette.com) – “Statistics showing increased obesity among low-income preschoolers in Colorado are misleading.” Information provided by Amy Anderson, M.P.H., C.P.H., Epidemiologist.
- 08.09.13 – The Gazette**, “Rabid Fox Bites Man in Southwest Colorado Springs.” Information provided by Office of Communication. Estimated daily circulation: 77,000.
- 08.09.13 – Cheyenne Edition**, “Rabid Fox a Good Reminder.” Interview provided by Bill Letson, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director. Estimated circulation: 16,000.
- 08.14.13 – The Gazette**, “A Little Boost Against Tetanus.” Information provided by Office of Communication. Estimated daily circulation: 77,000.
- 08.27.13 – Colorado Springs Business Journal**, “El Paso Public Health Earns Sought After Accreditation.” Information provided by Office of Communication. Estimated weekly circulation: 36,000.
- 08.27.13 – The Gazette**, “El Paso County Public Health Agency Honored.” Interview provided by Jill Law, R.N., B.S.N., M.H.A., Director.

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.

- 08.01.13 - KOAA (NBC) News 5** at noon, 5, 6, and 6:30 p.m. First rabid fox found west of Interstate 25 in El Paso County. Interview provided by Bill Letson, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director. Viewership: 31,821; estimated value: \$1,419/per 30 seconds.
- 08.01.13 - KRDO (ABC) News 13** at 4:30 p.m. First rabid fox found west of Interstate 25 in El Paso County. Interview provided by Bill Letson, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director. Viewership: 21,629; estimated value: \$965 per 30 seconds.
- 08.01.13 - KKTV (CBS) 11 News** at noon, 4:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 10 and August 2 at 4:30 a.m. First rabid fox found west of Interstate 25 in El Paso County. Interview provided by Bill Letson, Bill Letson, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director. Viewership: 5,990; estimated value: \$287/per 30 seconds.
- 08.09.13 – KOAA (NBC) News 5** at 5 p.m. Rabid fox attacks man in southwest Colorado Springs. Interview provided by Marigny Klaber, M.Sc., South Central Region Epidemiologist. Viewership: 8,274; estimated value: \$481 per 30 sec.
- 08.09.13 – KRDO (ABC) News 13** at 4 and 5 p.m. Rabid fox attacks man in southwest Colorado Springs. Interview provided by Marigny Klaber, M.Sc., South Central Region Epidemiologist. Viewership: 35,652; estimated value: \$1,647 per 30 seconds.
- 08.09.13 – KKTV (CBS) 11 News** at noon and 4:30 p.m. Second Rabid Fox Found in Colorado Springs. Information provided by Office of Communication. Viewership: 36,267; estimated value: \$1,926 per 30 seconds.
- 08.09.13 – KXRM (FOX) News at 9 p.m.** Rabid fox attacks man in southwest Colorado Springs. Interview provided by Marigny Klaber, M.Sc., South Central Region Epidemiologist. Viewership: 16,435; estimated value: \$1,562 per 30 seconds.
- 08.13. 13 - Free Tetanus Clinics** in Manitou Springs on August 12 and 13 generated stories on multiple television stations, broadcasting on all major Colorado Springs networks, as well as Denver media. **Total local viewership over the two days is estimated at 446,500 viewers with an estimated value at \$34,981 according to TVEyes Media Monitoring.**

Radio

08.10.13 KVOR 740 AM Radio –Rabid fox attacks residents in southwest Colorado Springs. Interview provided by Bill Letson, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director.

Monthly Article

“Keeping your family healthy when kids go back to school”

Social Media/Online digital media

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

August content included: Rabies awareness messages; Tetanus Immunization Clinic for Manitou Springs Flash Flood; National Immunization Awareness Month; World Breastfeeding Week; Back to School Immunizations; Manitou Springs Household Hazardous Waste Collection information.

- Facebook: 255 “likes; Twitter: 828 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 August 1 and 31**, our office received and answered approximately **114 emails** through our website.

Website statistics

According to Google Analytics, www.elpasocountyhealth.org had 9,958 unique visitors to the site with 21,916 pageviews (from August 1 to September 1, 2013). Of the total visitors, more than 71 percent were new visitors. The top 5 most visited pages were birth and death records, WIC, immunizations, location/directions, and retail food establishments.