To: Board of Health

From: Kandi Buckland, R.N., M.P.A.
Executive Director

Date: November 14, 2011 (Reflects October 2011)

Re: Executive Director’s Report

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

Accreditation—Kathy Rice, Office of Planning, Partnerships, and Accreditation, Director
- An accreditation presentation was given for the public health nurse student orientation held at EPCPH.
- The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) accepted the EPCPH Statement of Intent (SOI) to apply for Public Health Accreditation within the next 12 months.
- An accreditation update was presented to EPCPH Leadership staff.

Disease Prevention and Control—Dr. Bernadette Albanese, M.P.H., Medical Director and Division Director
- Reportable infectious diseases (reflects Communicable Disease (CD) investigative activities in October 2011).
  - 23 communicable disease cases were reported and investigated: Campylobacter (3), Giardia (3), chronic hepatitis B (3), invasive pneumococcal disease (2), pertussis (3), Salmonella (1), and viral meningitis (8).
  - 9 possible foodborne illness complaints.
  - One gastrointestinal illness outbreak was investigated involving a middle school that was caused by norovirus. There was a range of approximately 100 to 160 students ill within a one week period. CD staff worked closely with the school to conduct the investigation and implement infection control measures aimed at reducing spread of illness. It was suspected that norovirus spread from person-to-person rather than foodborne. Infection control measures included exclusion of ill students and thorough cleaning of the facility.
- CD Program responded to 10 calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals. Among those inquiries, 3 animals (1 bat, 1 skunk, and 1 raccoon) were tested for rabies because there were either human or pet animal exposures.
  - The current 2011 total of animals testing positive for rabies in El Paso County is 15 (9 skunks, 5 bats, 1 fox).
  - The CD program has investigated each case to assess for human and animal exposures and make recommendations for appropriate follow-up.
- Tuberculosis (TB) Program staff conducted Direct Observed Therapy for 6 active or suspect active TB cases.
- CD Program continues to monitor the nationwide Listeria outbreak and have responded to approximately 30 calls from providers and public since September. As of Oct. 31, there have been 5
laboratory-linked cases (including 1 death) reported in El Paso County. In total, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have reported 139 cases from 28 states, of which there have been 29 deaths. Colorado has reported 39 cases and 8 deaths. This outbreak represents the deadliest national outbreak in 13 years. The high mortality rate is reflective of Listeria impacting elderly persons and persons who are at risk for serious illness from this infection.

Emergency Preparedness and Response—Lisa Powell, M.P.S., Program Manager

- Participated in the pilot workshop for resource management. In 2010, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) published the Standard Guide for Resource Management in Emergency Management and Homeland Security (ASTM Standard E2640-10). A task group comprised of emergency management and homeland security stakeholders, developed and published this standard using a consensus driven process to represent a compendium of best practices for resource management processes. The discussions and outcomes identified during the Catastrophic Planning Initiative Workshop conducted in Colorado Springs in January of 2011 were integrated in the Colorado Springs Catastrophic Incident Annex to the Emergency Operations Plan. This workshop will involve both the development of a Colorado Springs-specific plan for resource management, building upon what was created for catastrophic incidents, as well as serve as an opportunity to solicit feedback on the tools to be promulgated to resource management practitioners across the country.

- Attended the Volunteer Management Workshop in Woodland Park. This workshop focused on the core tenants of developing a volunteer program. Presenters discussed their roles, experiences, and expertise in volunteer management. Of particular interest was Tim Gablehouse ESQ., who discussed agency liability when a volunteer group is activated.

- Participated in the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) roundtable discussion hosted by the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) and attended by Centers for Disease Control Project Manager, Joe Merlino. The new Medical Countermeasure Distribution and Dispensing Composite Measure Guides were introduced to the group. The development of capabilities to rapidly distribute and dispense medical countermeasures to large populations in response to an emergency remains a national priority. This guide initiated discussion about potential changes needed in this year’s Cities Readiness Initiative contract to accommodate the new expectations, in particular the new full-scale exercise requirements.

- Attended the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) steering committee meeting in Woodland Park. Ken Hughlett gave a briefing on the Joplin, Missouri Tornado response. The evacuation of the hospital gave us all pause for thought.

- Presented an overview of public health emergency preparedness and response capabilities to a group of student nurses from the local nursing schools.

- Attended the Planning Section Chief course. This course was designed to provide local and State-level emergency responders with a robust understanding of the duties, responsibilities, and capabilities of an effective Planning Section Chief (PSC) on an All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT). These responsibilities fall into two categories: 1) managing the planning cycle, and 2) tracking resources and incident status. Taking this course gave the staff a clearer understanding of how public health can improve our use of incident command.
  - Program Manager participated in the Tucson Incident Debrief. The incident management team from Arizona came to the Colorado Technical Institute to share important lessons learned from this highly coordinated response effort. On Jan. 8, 2010 nineteen people were shot in a mass casualty attack on U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords at a Tucson shopping center. Six died from their wounds, including District of Arizona Chief Judge John Roll, and 9 year-old Christina Taylor Green. The incident began with multiple 911 calls and led to a Mass Casualty Response, involving national leadership; it initiated international media that created a frenzy of Crisis Management activity in Tucson, Arizona. Emergency response and on-the-fly planning required coordination, cooperation and stamina to be maintained over time at unprecedented levels. Rapid synchronization across the continuum of law enforcement, fire, rescue, emergency services, trauma care, and other emergency support functions occurred under intense media scrutiny and political over sight.
The team provided an interactive presentation and discussion of the “Tucson Incident After Action Report” aimed at sharing their collective knowledge, the good, the bad and the ugly, to help others improve collaborative performance across the Emergency Response and Support Functions delineated in the National Homeland Security Framework.

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

**Retail Food Safety Program**

Environmental health specialists completed the following activities to promote food safety and prevent foodborne illness:

- 490 Retail Food Establishment (RFE) routine inspections.
- 170 RFE follow-up inspections.
- 7 RFE plan reviews.
- 27 RFE pre-operational inspections.
- 14 RFE complaint investigations.
- Excited to announce that the online food safety course went live Oct. 3.
- Participated in School District 11’s Food Safety Expo for nutrition services personnel.
- Investigated an outbreak of several ill students and staff at Falcon Middle School in coordination with the communicable disease prevention program staff.
- Food Safety Advisory Group (FSAG) met on Oct. 17 at Citizens Service Center. The following was discussed:
  - Established a FSAG purpose statement.
  - New inspection data reports and how the reports will be utilized to measure RFE program objectives were presented.
  - Discussed the proposed hourly plan review fee increase for 2012. No members objected to the proposed hourly fee increase for plan reviews.
  - Pikes Peak Chapter of the Colorado Restaurant Association gave an update on their State board meeting.

**On-Site Wastewater and Groundwater Protection Program**

Environmental health specialists completed the following activities to promote proper design, siting and installation of on-site wastewater systems (OWS) to protect drinking water originating from groundwater:

- OWS Final Inspections: 31
- OWS Site Inspections: 18
- Pumper Truck Inspections: 4
- OWS Complaint Investigations: 3
- OWS Logic Model is nearly completed and is a dynamic document that is developed by the OWS team. The model outlines future direction for the OWS program. The 4 major components of the model include outreach to industry and stakeholders through education/training, incorporation of science based OWS standards into our local OWS regulations, establishing licensing/certification criteria for designers and installers, and an electronic data warehouse and record keeping plan for nearly 40,000 OWS records. The team has identified the need for OWS outreach and education as a major objective, not only for the team, but also for OWS design engineers, licensed installers, pumpers, home builders, and realtors. The team will involve all of their stakeholders for input at the upcoming OWS Technical Advisory Group meeting in November. The final model is scheduled to be completed in November.
- EH Director made a brief presentation to the Water Quality Management Committee meeting held at Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments on the current status and timeline for the proposed revisions to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Individual Sewage Disposal System Guidelines. The long awaited transition from mostly prescriptive guidelines to science-based guidelines
are moving forward, and is scheduled to be heard by the Water Quality Control Commission in June of 2012.

Body Art Safety Program
Environmental health specialists completed the following activities to prevent the spread of disease at body art facilities:
• Regular Inspections: 1
• Preoperational Inspections: 5
• Follow-up Inspection: 1
• Complaint Investigation: 1
• Infectious disease control test was proctored for 7 body artists.

Colorado Environmental Health Association – Annual Educational Conference
• EPCPH’s Team won the coveted environmental health knowledge bowl. Seven teams (five county health departments, one student team, and state health department team) competed and our team answered every question correctly to win the bowl. The prize is a free registration to the National Environmental Health Conference, in 2012.
• Staff gave a presented to educate their peers about environmental health’s role in emergency preparedness, surveillance, recovery, and mitigation at the Colorado Environmental Health Association’s Annual Educational Conference.

Collaboration with County Development Services Department (DSD)
• EH Director has been researching water quality and air quality monitoring strategies regarding oil and gas activity. From that research, water quality and air quality monitoring plans were included in the proposed amendment to the El Paso County Land Development Code regarding oil and gas activities. The proposed code has been released to the public for comment. Staff will continue to collaborate with DSD on the development of the draft code, which the Planning Commission will receive general information in November and submit recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners in December.

Health Promotion—Dan Martindale, Deputy Director and Division Director
• Maternal Child Health (MCH)
  o Participated in the Community Partnership for Childhood Development Health and Safety Advisory Board Meeting.
  o Participated in Swigert Middle School’s Community Resource Fair.
  o Participated in 5 Early Intervention Trans-disciplinary Team Meetings at The Resource Exchange for those children from 0-3 years who have been found to have developmental delays. Dietician and Public Health Nurses consulted on several cases and received several referrals to the program.
  o Participated in the Solid Rock Health Fair.
  o Taught Rules and Regulations Training Class at Pikes Peak Community College. 13 participants were in attendance.
  o Conducted the 2nd and 3rd Child Health Liaison Class at Community Partnership for Child Development, more than 20 participants attended.
• Child Care Facility Inspections:
  1. New Center Inspections: 6
  2. Routine Inspections (every 24 months): 8
• During the Nurse Family Partnership Advisory Board meeting, Barbara Hughes, newly hired nurse consultant with Invest in Kids gave a brief summary of the plan to move Nurse Family
Partnership’s fiscal oversight from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to State Department of Human Services along with other home visitation and early childhood programs.

- Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) staff attended “Motivational Interviewing: The Evidenced-Based Approach for Guiding Clients to Change.”
- Nurse Family Partnership staff attended the Southern Colorado Domestic Violence Symposium in Pueblo, Colorado.
- Staff met with the Harrison High School Wellness Committee and reviewed data and proposed subject matter for health literacy modules.
- Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP):
  - Worked with City Attorney in Manitou Springs for review of the youth access ordinance.
  - Working with Fountain to conduct retailer trainings for all of Fountain retailers that sell non-cigarette tobacco products.
  - Conducted 9 Food and Drug Administration compliance checks regarding youth access and sales of tobacco products to minors.

**Health Services - Jill Law, R.N., B.S.N., Division Director**

**Women Infants and Children (WIC)**

- The WIC program is currently over caseload by 600 clients. In order to meet the need 2 employees are being redirected to provide services at the Fountain Valley Location and the Lake Plaza location. The agency is currently serving 17002 active client caseload with over 18000 enrolled.
- The Director of Health Services has had multiple phone conversations with the fiscal manager for WIC at CDPHE regarding the decrease in funding and the increasing caseload. It has been made clear that the agency needs appropriate resources to continue to serve the need within the community and asked for replacement of funds. Caseload will be reevaluated by CDPHE in December 2011.

**Clinical Services**

- Clinical Services served 434 unduplicated patients. Unduplicated counts are new patients who receive an annual exam and/or a pregnancy test. This clinic is on track to serve the agreed upon number of clients to meet the contractual requirements.
- Clinic manager attended the 2011 STD/HIV update in Denver October 26-28th.
- Educational specialist and two nurse practitioners listened to a webinar provided by the CDPHE for Jan. 2012, which provided information about the state’s media campaign focusing on decreasing unplanned pregnancies and sexual infections in young adolescents.
- Participated in the Monument Chamber of Business Health Fair provided information and flyers to different local organizations about health services.
- Collaborated with Department of Human Services and Strong and Healthy Families to provide 74 women participants with verbal information and flyers regarding Clinical Services. Blood pressure checks for those desiring were also provided.

**Immunization Clinic**

- Collaborated with WIC to promote influenza vaccination among adult WIC participants. Campaign devised to offer low cost/no cost vaccine to uninsured parents using discretionary-use vaccine provided by CDPHE. With this discretionary-use vaccine, the Immunization Program staff began offering influenza vaccines to parents of children under five at the time of their child’s clinic appointment.
- The annual Vaccines for Children (VFC) site visit was completed by a public health nurse from CDPHE. As usual, our program met or exceeded VFC standards; only two items related to the relocation to the CSC are suggested for follow-up.
**Human Resources**—Kathy Vincent, S.P.H.R., Human Resources Director

- Turnover for October was 1.7% this reflects the “goings” of 2-System Administrators and 1- Accounting Technician.
- Currently recruiting the following positions: Program Manager for Nurse Family Partnership.
- Staff attended a *Colorado Springs Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management* discussion regarding Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008. This meeting discussed current and future considerations regarding the amended disabilities act.
- Staff began training with managers/division director on *PolicyTech*, our web based policy/procedure program. *PolicyTech* ensures employees have easy access to the most up to date policies/procedures, while increasing our efficiencies in the development, review and approval of documents and the documentation of employee acknowledgements.
- Open Enrollment for benefits was completed for EPCPH employees.

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

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.

- **10.27.11 KOAA News at 10 p.m.** Time to get the flu shot. Interview provided by Jill Law, R.N., B.S.N., health services division director. Estimated Value: $3,918. Viewership: 43,190.
- **10.19.11 KRDO (ABC) news at 6 p.m.** FDA findings on Listeria outbreak. Interview provided by Bernadette Albanese, M.D., M.P.H., medical director. Estimated value $1,020. Viewership: 11,803.
- **10.19.11 KOAA (NBC) news at 6 p.m.** FDA findings on Listeria outbreak. Interview provided by Bernadette Albanese, M.D., M.P.H., medical director. Estimated value: $1,628. Viewership: 22,823.
- **10.06.11 KRDO (ABC) news at 5 p.m.** Intestinal illness outbreak at Falcon Middle School. Interview provided by Shannon Rowe, M.P.H., communicable disease program manager. Estimated value: $1,287. Viewership: 26,060.
- **10.06.11 KKTV (CBS) news at 5 p.m.** Intestinal illness outbreak at Falcon Middle School. Interview provided by Shannon Rowe, M.P.H., communicable disease program manager. Estimated value: $1,293. Viewership: 27,351.
- Dr. Bernadette Albanese, M.P.H., medical director of El Paso County Public Health Public provided a straight-taped 30 minute interview and aired on KKLI, KCCY, and KIBT’s Public Affairs Show with Paul Richards. There are about 50-60 thousand listeners. It will also be available as a podcast on their website.
- Listeria, food safety, flu prevention topics were covered.

**Print News Media**

- **10.27.11** – Colorado Springs Independent, “When no one enforces meth-lab laws, renters find an ugly monkey on their back.” Interview provided by Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., environmental health division director.
• 10.18.11 – The Gazette, “Pet owners heeding plea to get rabies vaccines for furry pals.” Interview provided by Bernadette Albanese, M.D., M.P.H., medical director.
• 10.14.11 – The Gazette, “Common intestinal illness to blame for middle school outbreak.” Interview provided by Bernadette Albanese, M.D., M.P.H., medical director.
• 10.06.11 – The Gazette, “Health officials probing what sickened middle schoolers.” Interview provided by Bernadette Albanese, M.D., M.P.H., medical director.

Social Media
• News and information shared on our Facebook page and Twitter feeds included: Up in Smoke, online food safety class, flu vaccine information, “Good to Go” mobile web app for children’s immunizations, Falcon Middle School illness investigation, news articles about Rabies prevention efforts, FDA findings on Jensen Farms cantaloupes, bagged salad recall, Food Day efforts, cold weather safety tips, inclement weather closure announcement, and Listeria update.
• Submitted blog article about the Environmental Health Division’s participation in the 2011 CEHA conference in Fort Collins, Colorado.
• Pikes Peak Parent online and FreshInk: submitted online article, “Protect your family this season with flu vaccinations”.

News Releases
• 10.07.11 – “Protect your family this season with flu vaccinations”.
• 10.03.11 – “El Paso County Public Health now offering online training for food handlers”.

Healthinfo requests:
Our office received and answered more than 80 emails through the website. Recent inquiries include: meth lab cleanup, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) appointments and eligibility; bed bug complaints, adult and children’s vaccination appointments and fees; travel immunizations, birth and death record requests, restaurant complaints, reports of foodborne illness, and septic system record inquiries.

Communication Support
• Participated in Joint Information Center Oct. 1, in the “Up In Smoke” emergency preparedness exercise and provided public health messaging related to air quality.
• Attended the Oct. 27 Public Relations Society of American Annual Development Workshop. Topics included mobile marketing and elements of successful campaigns.
• Provided a presentation to 40 UCCS/Beth-El College of Nursing Community/Public Health students about the role of public health information. This orientation included presentations from all Public Health programs and was aimed at strengthening the public health workforce.
• Promoted the launch of the Online Food Safety Class through social media, news release, Public Health’s website and print promotions. Facilitated the printing and delivery of 2,500 Online Food Safety Class flyers for Environmental Health Division.
• Continued to develop and edit content for new website, including updating links, documents, fact sheets, forms, and facilitating content changes with division and program managers.
• Updated internal and external documents and forms with agency’s new name, logo and change of address. Uploaded documents for use in new website.
• Updated website pages for Environmental Health Division and Vital Statistics with updated forms and documents.
• Reviewed and edited the news release to announce City of Fountain’s approval of ordinance presented by Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) to require tobacco retailers to obtain a license to sell non-cigarette tobacco products.
• Created design and layout for the Community Health Assessment 2011 Report.
• Participated in the El Paso County 2012-2016 communication strategic planning session.

**Move to Citizens Service Center**

• Created temporary directional and information signage for public areas within Public Health.
• Updated and facilitated printing and delivery of new brochures for Immunization Division. (Vaccination for babies and adolescents in English and Spanish).
• Updated and facilitated printing and delivery of new brochures for Environmental Health Division. (Retail Food Establishment brochure).