To: Board of Health

From: Dan Martindale, M.P.A.
Public Health Director

Date: January 28, 2015 (Reflects December 2014)

Re: Director’s Report

Acronyms

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

Accreditation—Kathy Vincent, Office of Accreditation
Leadership completed the annual review and update of El Paso County Public Health’s five year (2012-2017) Strategic Plan. Leadership discussed Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) emerging health issues (Communication Science, Informatics, Workforce Development, Emergency Preparedness and Health Equity) and identified Informatics and Health Equity as issues to be included in yearly work plan objectives.

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

Communicable Disease (CD) activities for December:

- 208 infectious disease cases were reported and investigated:
  - Campylobacter: 5
  - Haemophilus Influenzae: 1
  - Hospitalized Influenza: 174
  - Pertussis: 7
  - Strep Pneumo Invasive: 8
  - Giardia: 3
  - Hepatitis B, Chronic: 4
  - Malaria: 1
  - Salmonella: 1
  - Varicella (chicken pox): 4

- Possible foodborne illness complaints: 5
- Outbreaks investigated: 17 (one impetigo at a high school, one unknown gastrointestinal illness at a retail food establishment, nine influenza at long-term care facilities, two norovirus at long-term care facilities, four long-term care facilities unknown gastrointestinal illness – suspected norovirus)
- Responded to nine calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals, or other rabies-related concerns. From those inquiries one animal was tested for rabies (one cat). It tested negative for rabies.
- Persons recommended to receive post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP): 0

Tuberculosis (TB) activities for December:

- New active TB cases investigated: 1
- New suspect TB cases investigated: 0
- Cases on Direct Observed Therapy (DOT): 1
- Cases on Directly Observed Preventive Therapy (DOPT): 0
- Total DOT/DOPT visits: 9
- General TB skin tests done: TB - 23, IZ – 29
- TB Blood tests (Quantiferon) done related to contact investigations: 1
- TB Skin tests done related to contact investigations: 1
- Contact Investigations Ongoing: 1
- Contacts evaluated/tested: 1
- Refugee and/or class B immigrant TB evaluations: 1
- Latent TB Infection (LTBI) cases under treatment: 2
- LTBI cases completing treatment this month: 2

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

**Air Quality Control Program**
- Pikes Peak Mechanical Contractors Association, Intellitec College, Regional Building and the National Carbon Monoxide Safety Association (COSA) teamed up to purchase and donate 15 of the highly sensitive “low level” personal carbon monoxide detectors to El Paso County Public Health. Staff that regularly inspects retail food establishments, child care centers and public swimming pools will be equipped with the detectors. The detectors were given to us during the Board of County Commissioner’s weekly meeting.
- Reviewed and approved three open burning permits to evaluate air quality issues that may impact public health. Three open burning permit applications were denied because they did not meet the requirements for open burning.
- EH Director and program manager worked with county personnel to develop the final draft of the El Paso County Open Burning Ordinance, and attended a board of county commissioners work session and the first public reading of the ordinance. After minor changes, it is expected that the ordinance will be adopted at a second reading on January 15, 2014. Staff began working with the El Paso County Deputy Fire Marshall to coordinate the health departments permitting process with the Sheriff’s Office.
- To ensure public awareness of Radon Action Month and the availability of free radon test kits, staff worked with the public health information officer to develop a media plan. Additional informational brochures for radon were printed and 1,000 radon test kits were ordered.
- Two complaints for excessive dust, and two for excessive smoke, were investigated.

**Body Art Safety Program**
Completed the following activities to prevent the spread of disease at body art facilities:
- Regular inspections: 9
- Complaints investigated: 2
- Staff met with five members of the Body Art Advisory Group to work on proposed revisions to the El Paso County Board of Health Body Art Regulations.

**Child Care Inspection Program**
Completed the following activities to prevent the spread of disease in licensed child care facilities.
- Regular inspections: 23
- Follow up inspections to assure compliance: 2
- Pre-operational inspections: 4
- Complaint investigated: 1

**Land-Use and Planning**
- Six El Paso County Development Services Division projects were submitted for review and comment. One of the projects is a 60-acre, 13 commercial lot development project site near the Colorado Springs Airport. The proposed project includes office buildings, restaurant sites, a hotel, and other mixed commercial uses. Our evaluation of the project required an agreement between the developer and the nearby sanitation district for water and wastewater service.

**On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems and Groundwater Protection Program**
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:
- Final inspections: 49
- Soil and site evaluations: 26
- New permits issued: 15
- Repair permits issued: 16
- Application/design reviews: 26
- Pumper truck inspections: 5
- Complaints: 2
- OWTS records scanning project: Nearly 7,000 OWTS property records have been scanned and placed in the electronic database. It is estimated that there are 34,000 active OWTS’s in the county.

**Recreational Water Program**
Completed the following activities to prevent the spread of disease in public pools and hot tubs.
- Regular inspections: 19
- Follow up inspections to assure compliance: 1

**Retail Food Safety Program**
Completed the following activities to promote food safety and prevent foodborne illness in our community:
- Routine inspections: 370
- Follow-up inspections: 72
- Plan reviews – new construction: 6
- Plan review – remodel: 2
- Pre-operational inspections: 29
- Complaint investigations: 14
- Students took our online Basic Food Safety class: 15
- Students took our on-site Basic Food Safety class: 24
- One foodborne illness investigation was conducted, but no significant problems were identified and no further action was necessary.
- Mailed out 2,398 Retail Food License renewals for 2015.

**School Laboratory Safety Program**
Three school chemistry laboratories were inspected for chemical safety requirements.

**Emergency Preparedness and Response:**--Lisa Powell, M.P.S.

- The Emergency Preparedness Team hosted a meeting with key stakeholders in the emergency management community to discuss the process of requesting, receiving, and distributing assets from the Strategic National Stockpile.
- Program manager received a scholarship to attend the National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference, in Denver, Colorado. This was a unique opportunity to focus on the implementation of healthcare coalitions and coalition activities in our communities. The agenda highlighted coalition best practices from across the country.
- Regional Epidemiologist provided Basic and Advanced Communicable Disease Training to over 30 public health employees from throughout the state. This was a two-day training held in Salida, CO.
- Regional Epidemiologist attended a Mountain States course entitled Supervision Core Competencies, which will help build leadership capacity within the department.

**Health Services**—Kelley Christians, R.D. Division Director
Clinical Services:
- 261 visits of which 154 visits were qualifying towards the Title X contract.
- From July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 there were 1,684 visits of which 1,282 were qualifying visits towards the Title X contract.

Maternal Child Health (MCH)

Child Health/ Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP):
- The ECOP Public Health Nurse taught an Active Living class for 12 family child care providers and conducted individual mentoring sessions afterwards.

ABCD (Assuring Better Child and Health Development) Developmental Screening:
- The ABCD Public Health Nurse implemented and facilitated a taskforce meeting for 17 community partners who are working on improving the developmental screening system of care in El Paso County.

Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (HCP):
- Our current caseload is 60. We acquired 13 new referrals this month and provided information and referrals to an additional 12 clients.

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP): There are 199 first time mothers enrolled in the program.

Strong and Healthy Families (SHF):
- In December the program received 11 referrals from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) case managers. Five graduates in December; total number of graduates in 2014: 43.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC): WIC has a client caseload of 14,472.

Laboratory -- Tom Gonzales, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Environmental Health Director
- Performed 528 bacteriological drinking water tests, including 272 public drinking water systems.
- Staff are preparing for an inspection from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for bacteriological (coliform and E. coli) water testing. Our license expires in March, 2015 and we must have a successful inspection prior to relicensing.

Office of Communication— Susan Wheelan, M.B.A., Office of Communication, 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.

12.26.14 – KRDO (ABC) at 5 p.m. Flu hospitalizations rising in southern Colorado. Interview provided by Shannon Rowe, M.P.H., Communicable Disease Program Manager. Estimated viewership: 37,936; estimated value: $1,983 (per 30 sec.)

Radio
12.23.14 - KRDO Radio (1240 AM and 105.5 FM) - Flu Prevention – it’s not too late to get your flu shot. Interview provided by Robyn Espy, M.P.H, Epidemiologist.
**Communication Support**

- Coordinated nearly $5,000 media buy plan and public relations efforts for radon awareness month (to launch in January).

**Social Media/Online digital media**

The Public Health Information Officer provides content management for social media platforms. November content included: Holiday food safety, importance of flu vaccine, HEAL (healthy eating, active living), News Year’s resolutions and quitting tobacco: 507 Facebook page followers; Twitter: 1,305 current followers.

**Healthinfo requests:**

The Public Health Information Officer 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 December 1 and 31, our office received and answered/referred approximately 67 emails through our website.

**Website statistics**

According to Google Analytics, www.elpasocountyhealth.org had 9,341 unique visitors to the site with 21,633 pageviews (from December 1 to January 1, 2015). The top five most visited pages were birth and death records, homepage, WIC, inspection reports, location/directions.

**Tobacco Education Prevention and Partnership (TEPP)**

- Met with the Colorado Springs City Council Administrator and City Council Legislative Assistant to discuss the process a non-city agency must follow to pass a city ordinance in Colorado Springs. We also discussed an overall policy process timeline and next steps.
- Presented to City Council, on behalf of the Health Department, in support of the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) designation for the City of Colorado Springs. HEAL passed with a 6-2 vote.
- Recruited approximately 30 youth at Palmer High School for the Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) club.
- Facilitated the Tobacco Education Coalition. Evolution, a marketing firm contracted by TEPP, presented to coalition members and gathered feedback for a media campaign to support the youth access policy in Colorado Springs.
- Facilitated a Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) meeting at Palmer High School. Evolution presented to the youth and gathered feedback for a media campaign to support the youth access policy in Colorado Springs.
- Held a tobacco retailer stakeholder meeting with three Colorado Springs retailers to obtain their feedback on youth tobacco access policy efforts. Participants discussed Healthy Kids Colorado Survey data and tobacco sales law compliance.
- Volunteered at Feed the Children Event at The Springs Church. Reached over 2,500 plus El Paso County residents. Passed out ‘Quit Kits’ and Colorado Quitline promotional/educational materials.
- Inside/Out Youth Services will be supporting ongoing policy efforts to have licensing in effect for tobacco products (excluding cigarettes) to deter youth access to tobacco.
- Met with Deerfield Hills, Meadows Park, and Hillside Community Centers on the status and progress of Photovoice projects.