

To: Board of Health

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

Date: June 16, 2014 (Reflects May 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, S.P.H.R., Office of Planning, Partnerships, and Accreditation, Director*
At the May Healthy Community Collaborative (HCC) meeting, members supported the HCC moving forward with “Let’s Go! 5-2-1-0,” an educational, healthy eating and active living, coordinated effort that could be promoted throughout the HCC. The ‘Let’s Go! 5-2-1-0’ program is evidence-based and started from an initiative that began in 2006 (<http://www.letsgo.org/>) out of Maine.

Deputy Director—*Dan Martindale, B.S., M.P.A.*

Emergency Preparedness and Response: Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) staff responded to the Drake Power Plant Fire. Staff members were requested to attend situation briefings at the Colorado Springs Utilities Emergency Operations Center in case the situation required evacuations and shelters.

EPR staff participated in the “Sky Fall” full scale exercise, which involved over 1,000 participants from 31 different agencies. The exercise was designed to allow personnel to test and train their procedures in response to a simulated aircraft crash.

The Centers for Disease Control hosted a two-day training on Points of Dispensing (POD) for the South Central Region. The training was held in Woodland Park. El Paso County Public Health staff were in attendance, representing Emergency Preparedness and Response, Clinical Services, Maternal Child Health, Communicable Disease and Immunizations programs. The course was designed to provide POD managers, local and state planners, and POD staff members with skills and tools necessary to effectively and efficiently dispense medications during a public health emergency. Participants learned to identify Strategic National Stockpile foundational concepts, explore alternate dispensing methods, analyze POD staffing plans and identify critical resources.

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

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

- Reportable infectious diseases - 32 infectious disease cases were reported and investigated:

campylobacter (4), giardia (4), acute hepatitis B (1), chronic hepatitis B (2), influenza, hospitalized (3), pertussis (3), Salmonella (4), strep pneumo invasive (5), varicella (3), and viral meningitis (3).

- Possible foodborne illness complaints: 13
- CD Staff investigated two outbreaks in May: 1 norovirus in a long term care facility; 1 Salmonella in a retail food establishment.
- CD Program responded to 18 calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals, or other rabies-related concerns. From those inquiries one animal was tested for rabies (bat), and it was negative for rabies.
- One person was recommended to receive post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) related to a raccoon exposure.
- One wild rabbit was tested for plague, due to several human exposures; the rabbit tested negative, therefore no treatment was necessary for human contacts.

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

- New active TB cases investigated: 1
- Cases on Direct Observed Therapy (DOT): 1
- Total DOT/DOPT visits: 18
- General TB skin tests done: TB - 35 , IZ - 31
- TB Blood tests (Quantiferon) done related to contact investigations: 5
- Contacts evaluated/tested: 5
- Refugee and/or class B immigrant TB evaluations: 1
- Latent TB Infection (LTBI) cases under treatment: 11

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

Black Forest Fire Recovery

- To date, 311 on-site wastewater treatment system evaluations of the 488 homes that were destroyed have been submitted for our review. Of the 311 OWTS evaluations, 68 have required a repair permit to either replace a damaged system or relocate the system.
- Division director gave an update on the recovery, in regards to on-site wastewater treatment systems and safe clean up, at the Board of County Commissioners meeting.

Retail Food Safety Program

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

- Routine inspections: 343
- Follow-up inspections: 66
- Plan reviews – new construction: 10
- Plan reviews – remodel: 3
- Pre-operational inspections: 34
- Complaint investigations: 20
- Compliance proceedings: 10
- Students took advantage of our online Basic Food Safety class: 41
- Students took our on-site Basic Food Safety class: 36
- Five staff attended a two-day training on reduced oxygen packaging requirements at the University of Colorado in Boulder. This will enable staff to better evaluate food safety when vacuum packaging, sous vide, or cook/chill processing is used to prepare foods. The training was sponsored by the United States Food and Drug Administration and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

- Division director and program manager attended the Pikes Peak Chapter of the Colorado Restaurant Association. An update on the consumer advisory requirements was given to the group, and questions regarding repeat critical violations were discussed.

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:

- Final inspections: 33
- Soil and site evaluations: 31
- New permits issued: 20
- Repair permits issued: 28
- Application/design reviews: 29
- Pumper truck inspections: 6
- Staff met with a local OWTS industry product distributor to observe new products available to contractors to use when completing OWTS final inspections. The owner very much appreciated our outreach as we continue to work together to understand and apply the updated OWTS regulations.
- The National Association of Wastewater Technicians (NAWT) held a two-day Certified Inspector Training Class at the Citizens Service Center. Forty people attended the training. OWTS inspectors will be required to be NAWT Certified Inspector when the Transfer of Title Program goes into effect January 1, 2015.
- The OWTS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met in May to discuss the updated OWTS regulations. Issues regarding regulation interpretation were brought to our attention. The feedback from the TAG is essential to the success of the OWTS Program as we continue to interpret and apply the regulations uniformly.

Land-Use and Planning

- Fifteen El Paso County Development Services Division projects were submitted for review and comment. One of the projects is a site development plan for a church in northern El Paso County that includes a new parking area and future sanctuary. Comments from staff were regarding the possible re-classification of the drinking water system from an un-regulated, private water system to a regulated, public water system, and the requirements for expansion of the existing on-site wastewater treatment system to accommodate the wastewater flow increase associated with the proposed new sanctuary.

Air Quality Control Program

- Staff investigated three complaints of excessive emissions (smoke or dust).
- Staff reviewed and approved ten construction activity permits to assure that contractors have adequate fugitive dust control plans.
- Staff reviewed and approved six open burning permits to evaluate air quality issues that may impact public health. A seventh open burning permit application was denied because the proposed burn materials included construction debris.

Childcare Inspection Program

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

- Regular inspections: 22
- Follow up inspections to assure compliance: 1
- Pre-operational inspections: 2

Recreational Water Program

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

- Regular inspections: 38
- Follow up inspections to assure compliance: 2
- Pre-operational inspections: 2
- Complaint Investigations: 2

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

Strong and Healthy Families

- The program received 21 referrals from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) case managers. Nine new referrals enrolled in class.

Nurse Family Partnership

- There are 206 first time mothers enrolled in the program.

Child Health/ Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP):

- The ECOP Public Health Nurse began recruiting and planning for the next set of H.E.A.L. (Healthy Eating, Active Living) classes to begin in June.
- The ECOP Community Health Educator completed a food access five-question survey with WIC, Nurse Family Partnership and Strong and Healthy Families clients. Data was compiled with the help of Health Department Epidemiologist.
- The ECOP Community Health Educator presented a PowerPoint on 5210 to the Healthy Communities Collaborative meeting. 5210 is an obesity prevention messaging campaign; 5 fruits and vegetables daily, no more than 2 hours of recreational screen time daily, 1 hour of exercise daily and 0 sugar-sweetened beverages daily.

ABCD (Assuring Better Childhood Development) Developmental Screening:

- An ABCD stakeholder's meeting was held with 19 community partners attending. Presentations were conducted by MGA and Team Select, two home health care agencies. Work continues on a Developmental Screening Roadmap.

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 46.
- The HCP staff visited MGA HealthCare Inc, a home health care agency to look for ways to collaborate on pediatric cases.

Immunizations:

- All of the Immunization nurses attended the Pikes Peak Flu and Immunization quarterly meeting during which the student-produced video *The Invisible Threat* was featured. The documentary examines fears and misconceptions surrounding vaccination as well as the potential danger to the public of not immunizing. Due to the video's striking impact, immunization advocates recently afforded lawmakers on Capitol Hill the opportunity to view the video.

Clinical Services:

- Clinical Manager in collaboration with the Strong and Healthy Families program provided an educational in-service to participants on planning their families and spacing their children through the use of multiple birth control methods.

Women, Infants and Children: WIC caseload for May was: 14,844.

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

Tobacco Education Prevention and Partnership (TEPP)

- The post-buy media analysis meeting for the “Be a good role model. Be tobacco free.” media campaign was held in May. The impact and effectiveness of this campaign was reviewed with Inline Media, SE2, and the other southeastern Colorado regional partners that were involved with the development and implementation of this campaign. Results of the campaign evaluation will be shared with the Tobacco Education Coalition (TEC).
 - The campaign reached approximately 93,255,464 adults in the 18-49 demographic.
 - English language television: 18,008,000 potential viewership;
 - Radio: 12,712,000 (Colorado Springs Metro Buy) + 10,942,400 (Outer Market Buy);
 - Online potential viewership: 43,900,000;
 - Outdoor advertising (billboard) potential viewership 1,441,880;
 - Advertising on buses: 6,251,184 potential viewership;
 - More than 18.8 million adults total on the TobaccoFreeCO.org website.
- Met with the Executive Director of University Advancement at UCCS to discuss partnering with the university to assist with the assessment and implementation of tobacco-free campus policy. TEPP will present information about how we work together to accomplish the goal of reducing tobacco use on campus.
- In coordination with Fox 21, staff produced a [commercial](#) to highlight the financial advantages of not smoking.
- Beth-El nursing students, in coordination with TEPP, have staffed health fairs at Deerfield Hills Community Center, Hillside Community Center, Lewis Palmer High School and Marian House. In all, the nursing students educated about 265 children and adults about the health effects of tobacco, ingredients found in tobacco and the financial costs of tobacco use.
- TEPP staff attended the third course in the *Shaping Policy for Health* competency-based policy curriculum At Denver-Anschutz. The two-day training provided useful information about how to influence the policy change process through advocacy, which can be applied to the TEPP mission.

Communication Support

Print News Media

05.14 – Pueblo PULP, “[Digital smoking: The new cool of vaporizers and the health risks.](#)” Interview provided by Susan Wheelan, MBA, Communication Director. Estimated monthly circulation, 5,000.

Television News Media

05.20.14 – KRDO Channel 13 at 4:30 p.m. “Flu Season Update.” Interview provided by Dr. Bill Letson, M.D., Medical Director, Disease Prevention and Control Division Director. Local viewership: 16,983; estimated value: \$767.75.

Radio News Media

05.25.14 – Cumulus Radio Sunday morning. “Pulse” Interview provided by Jill Law, R.N., M.H.A. Broadcast over six stations: 92.9 Peak FM; 95.1 Cat Country; 98.1 KKFM; 98.9 Magic FM; AM 1300 the Sports Animal and AM 740 KVOR. Estimated potential audience: 315,200.

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 May 1 and 31, our office received and answered/referred approximately 42 (as of May 29) emails through our website.

Website statistics

According to Google Analytics, www.elpasocountyhealth.org had 8,610 unique visitors to the site with 16,313 page views (from May 1 to 28, 2014). The top 5 most visited pages were birth and death records, home page, WIC, retail food establishments and map/directions.