<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACEs</td>
<td>Adverse Childhood Experiences</td>
<td>LRN</td>
<td>Laboratory Response Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDPHE</td>
<td>Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment</td>
<td>MCH</td>
<td>Maternal Child Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHIP</td>
<td>Community Health Improvement Plan</td>
<td>MDL</td>
<td>Medical Diagnostic Laboratory</td>
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<tr>
<td>CJCC</td>
<td>Criminal Justice Coordinating Council</td>
<td>NAMI</td>
<td>National Alliance on Mental Illness</td>
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<td>CLM</td>
<td>Community Learning Mode</td>
<td>PHQ</td>
<td>Patient Health Questionnaire</td>
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<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>Novel Coronavirus</td>
<td>POD</td>
<td>Point of Dispensing</td>
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<td>CTC</td>
<td>Communities that Care</td>
<td>PPS</td>
<td>Prevention and Policy Specialist</td>
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<td>DHS</td>
<td>Department of Human Services</td>
<td>RFA</td>
<td>Request for Application</td>
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<td>ECOP</td>
<td>Early Childhood Obesity Prevention</td>
<td>SAMHSA</td>
<td>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration</td>
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<td>EHR</td>
<td>Electronic Health Record</td>
<td>TEPP</td>
<td>Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPCPH</td>
<td>El Paso County Public Health</td>
<td>TFA</td>
<td>Teach for America</td>
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<td>EPSO</td>
<td>El Paso County Sheriff’s Office</td>
<td>TSP</td>
<td>Teen Suicide Prevention</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCP</td>
<td>A program for children and youth with special needs</td>
<td>WIC</td>
<td>Women, Infants and Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>HMA</td>
<td>Health Management Associates</td>
<td>YHD</td>
<td>Youth Health and Development Planner</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICS</td>
<td>Incident Command System</td>
<td>YSUP</td>
<td>Youth Substance Prevention Planner</td>
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On February 14, El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) activated Incident Command System (ICS) at Level 4 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the Communicable Disease team, staff across the agency, and community partners have been focused on slowing the spread of COVID-19 through the detection and management of suspected and confirmed cases and through the dissemination of information to the public on prevention measures and resources. Periodic updates on the incident have been and will continue to be provided to the Board and County leadership.

**Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Priority Areas:**

El Paso County Public Health and all public health agencies in Colorado are required by Senate Bill 194 to complete a CHIP for the community each serves. The CHIP defines the vision for the health of the community through a collaborative process with over 60 partner agencies who participate in the Healthy Community Collaborative. Community input on these goals can be viewed on a data dashboard at www.ThrivingColorado.com. These are EPCPH’s activities:

**Healthy Eating and Active Living**

Reverse the upward trend of obesity across the lifespan by addressing its root causes

- The Women, Infant and Children (WIC) caseload for February was 12,549. WIC staff continue efforts to reach those in our community who are eligible but not enrolled through social media and consistent follow-up with the online WIC referral form. WIC staff work diligently to retain client caseload by reaching out to all who miss their scheduled appointment, by providing phone and on-line education options and by assisting clients to fully utilize their food benefits.

- MCH (Maternal Child Health) Program Manager attended an Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP) Priority Current & Future planning session with the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) to discuss the future direction of MCH ECOP work at state and local levels. Developments from the session and implications for El Paso County’s program will be shared in future reports.

**Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention**

Decrease the incidence of poor mental health and substance use and misuse

- The MCH Bullying and Youth Suicide (BYS) Prevention and Policy Specialist (PPS) completed Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) training with 75 attendees from Grand Mountain K-8 and Resilience training with parents from D14. Through an ongoing partnership with UCCS, 18 teaching students were trained in ACEs and trauma-responsiveness as part of their coursework.
• The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program works with pregnant and post-partum women to identify depression, refer for behavioral health treatment and reduce the stigma of seeking behavioral health services. WIC staff completed 277 two-question Patient Health Questionnaires (PHQ-2s) and made 14 referrals to AspenPointe for further evaluation and connections to meet their specific behavioral health needs.

• El Paso County is working in collaboration with Peak Vista to send Peak Vista and DHS caseworkers together to homes when children are referred with concerns of child abuse and neglect. We are creating process maps to identify the intake workflow and ensure a seamless handoff between members of the child welfare team.

• The passing of SB 19-228 set aside approximately 1.5 million dollars to be used by local public health departments to address opioid and other substance use disorders through public health interventions to address related priorities throughout the state. This is one-time funding and must be used by June 30, 2020. El Paso County Public Health will receive approximately $195,000 to provide initial impact, with the possibility of additional funding after June 30, 2020. EPCPH did not retain any of the funds for staff expenses.

  o **Expected Result of Activities:** Address opioid and other substance use priorities through the implementation of evidence-based interventions and prevention activities that address local substance use priorities.

  o **Projects Funded:**
    - **Behavioral Health Correctional Facility Site Visit:** EPCPH is coordinating with the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office (EPSO) to conduct a site visit of a successful program that has reduced recidivism in Miami-Dade. Three staff from EPCPH and one staff from EPSO are planning to tour this facility in April (or conduct a virtual tour) and bring back recommendations to assist our jail in reducing recidivism.
    - **Bloom Recovery House expansion:** The Health Services Division Director participates on the Bloom Recovery House Advisory Committee, which is overseeing progress on researching properties and funding to expand the residential treatment program for pregnant women, parenting women and their children in El Paso County. The substance use treatment program will provide on-site behavioral health and vocational services to women, and high-quality childcare for their children, in a safe setting.
    - **Coroner’s Office:** The Data Office is working with the Coroner’s Office to review data and prepare their 2019 Annual Report. Further collaboration will include working to optimize data collection, processing and analysis as well as evaluating potential process improvements to jointly respond to press and public information requests.
- **Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC):** A contract is in development for the CJCC behavioral health needs assessment/gap analysis in the criminal justice system. We anticipate the contract will be completed in early March.

- **Health Management Associates (HMA):** We are working with HMA on a behavioral health needs assessment/gap analysis in El Paso County. They are reviewing prior key informant interviews and projects. The initial project kick-off meeting was February 18, 2020.

- **NAMI:** The Data Office is currently drafting a qualitative study in collaboration with NAMI to survey and better understand substance use. Will have more updates once the study group/design and budget are finalized.

- **Pretrial Services Pilot:** EPCPH Lab has been conducting testing for individuals with substance use issues in the pretrial system for over a year. Pretrial Services will be able to offer “drop in” behavioral health services to individuals with substance use concerns starting in March with the goal of reducing additional legal charges and offering defendants an opportunity to receive treatment. We will track data from March through June to assess impact.

**Surveillance, Epidemiology and Emergency Preparedness**

**Hepatitis A Outbreak (2018-2020)**
El Paso County Public Health conducted 132 vaccine outreach events from October 2018 through February 2020. El Paso County Public Health in coordination with community partners including the El Paso Sheriff’s Office, Penrose St. Francis parish nurses, UC Health/Memorial Emergency Department, and Peak Vista, have administered 7,346 Hepatitis A vaccine as of February 28, 2020. There were 133 positive Hepatitis A cases through February 2020.

**Influenza Season 2019-2020**
Influenza surveillance for the 2019-2020 season began on September 29, 2019. As of March 2, 423 people in El Paso County have been hospitalized for influenza

Additional disease tracking reports can be found at [https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/news/disease-tracking-reports](https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/news/disease-tracking-reports)
Foundational Public Health Services
Foundational public health services include: communicable disease prevention, investigation and control, environmental health, maternal, child, adolescent, and family health, chronic disease and injury prevention and behavioral health promotion, and clinical care.

Laboratory
- Performed 505 Bacteriological water tests, 322 for public water systems and 183 for private wells. 96 water samples were assayed for inorganic anions.
- Laboratory staff processed the first LRN (Laboratory Response Network) Proficiency Test Survey of 2020 with five unknown select agents and is awaiting results. LRN’s mission is to maintain an integrated national and international network of laboratories that can respond to acts of biological or chemical terrorism and other public health emergencies.

2018-2022 Strategic Plan Goals
The goals selected for each strategic plan topic area represent broad achievements EPCPH plans to reach by the end of 2022. The goals are expressed at a high-level in order to capture all possible forward movement across the agency and within specific programs. The strategies selected represent the most important ways in which EPCPH can focus its agency and programmatic objectives to meet each goal.

Workforce Development: strengthen EPCPH’s workforce to improve public health and environmental quality.
- Youth Health and Development (YHD) Planner and Teen Suicide Prevention (TSP) Planner attended a training on Community Learning Mode (CLM), a model of community collaboration that will be utilized in the Colorado-National Collaborative all-ages suicide prevention efforts in El Paso County.
- YHD Planner and TSP Planner attended an equity training titled Cultural Competency: Foundation for an Inclusive Environment, provided by the Colorado School of Public Health, Center for Public Health Practice and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, University of Colorado School of Medicine, and hosted by the Colorado Child Fatality Prevention System. This training was provided to help us begin applying a healthy equity lens to our child fatality prevention work.

Technology, Informatics, Data Analysis: strengthen EPCPH’s capabilities to collect, analyze, share, and use data to make timely and information-driven decisions.
- On February 12th and 13th, the Family Planning Program Manager met with the Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) team and Data Analyst to coordinate the use and features of the Electronic Health Record (EHR) to track referrals for the Innovative Multi-Unit Housing Grant project, using the system for potential Medicaid billing, as well as data retrieval. This entailed creating and finalizing a detailed tobacco encounter process and training both staff on how to
enter client demographics and details into the system. We discussed the potential for interfacing the EHR with the Colorado QuitLine for referrals.

**Communication:** strengthen EPCPH’s capabilities to provide information on public health issues and public health functions to external partners, and strengthen EPCPH’s internal communication capabilities.

- MCH Program Manager participated in a panel discussion with Teach for America (TFA) alumni to highlight successes and ongoing Public Health projects in Southeast Colorado Springs. This discussion sparked interest in an ongoing partnership between MCH and TFA, whereby MCH BYS PPS will provide trauma-responsive classroom training to TFA students.
- YHD Planner and TSP Planner met with representatives from the Prevention Services Division at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to discuss the Healthy Youth Campaign, (a new campaign that will be launched in 2020) and to develop strategies to support the campaign in El Paso County.
- On February 20th, the Family Planning Program Manager, Health Services Division Director, and the Medical Director met to create a proposal to provide communication and training to the OB/GYN and Family Practice providers regarding the increase of syphilis and congenital syphilis. This proposal was discussed with the Public Health Director for implementation in light of limited resources with the COVID-19 situation. The Family Planning Program Manager is currently working with the Medical Director, Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness and Response teams to disseminate information to medical community providers.

**Community Partnerships:** develop and maintain strong relationships with key community partners to support public health or assure the provision of health care services.

- MCH has engaged Keystone Achievements Center, Inventa Academy, D2’s Very Involved People (VIP) group, Kids Care/Team Select, Peak Vista’s First Visitors, Angels of Care Pediatric Home and Teach for America, as referenced earlier in this report.
  YHD Planner led four multidisciplinary local child fatality case reviews and provided data and prevention recommendations to local, state, and national partners.
- TSP Planner attended a meeting of the Colorado Springs Firearm Safety Workgroup, convened by the Colorado Springs Branch of the University of Colorado School of Medicine. This group meets monthly to identify ways to reduce firearm-related injuries and deaths in our community, particularly those related to suicide. We discussed alignment around the proposed strategies under the Lethal Means Safety pillar of the Colorado-National Collaborative.

- The Immunization Clinic has worked with Fountain Valley School for several years, providing travel education, travel vaccines, and school-required vaccines.
This year, we completed a large travel Point Of Dispensing (POD), serving more than 100 students. The planning for this outreach was especially challenging due to the recent COVID-19 concerns, requiring additional education to promote student safety.

- The Family Planning Program Manager attended the El Paso County Human Trafficking Coalition on February 3rd, and shared resources provided by EPCPH that could be beneficial to human trafficking survivors.
- On February 25th, the Family Planning Program Manager, Medical Director, and providers met with the Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (MDL) to discuss an opportunity to partner with the offsite lab to increase testing capabilities for the Family Planning program. We are currently awaiting information and direction from MDL before moving forward with a proposal regarding this partnership which would allow Family Planning to provide enhanced services to the public.

**Funding for the Agency and Community Partners:** increase funding for EPCPH from diverse sources to support core public health services, programmatic services, and innovative strategies, and provide technical support for funding to key community partners.

In addition to the SB 19-228 funding ($195,000) to address opioid and other substance use disorders in El Paso County, referenced earlier in this report:

- YSUP Planner submitted a Letter of Intent in partnership with Alliance for Kids to the Colorado Trust for funding to support the Build Public Support for Quality Childcare Early in Life strategy.
- YSUP Planner attended a Public Health Transformation Steering Committee meeting where the final Cost Assessment results were presented. A summary of the results will be provided in a subsequent report.
- YSUP Planner successfully submitted a $22,000 budget amendment request to CDPHE for more funding to support the Communities that Care (CTC) grant in FY19-20.
- On February 10th, the Family Planning Program Manager and Health Services Division Director submitted a grant application to CDPHE for Title X contract and funding. The grant was written with a 10% increase in funding over the previous contract cycle, as EPCPH Family Planning program saw an increase of qualifying visits from 1571 in 2018 to 1696 in 2019. This was the first time in recent history that the Title X program has had to submit for funding through an open competitive grant process, and we are waiting patiently and confidently for the notification of awards. EPCPH has been contracted with CDPHE for Title X services since the inception of the program, which was signed into law by President Richard Nixon in 1970.
Grants Update since 2/12/2020

Grant Awards: None

Grant Decisions Pending:
- CDPHE RFA# 29606, *Family Planning*, application submitted 2/10/20

Grant Applications in Process:
- SAMHSA-Strategic Partnerships for Success, application due 3/6/2020
- *Harm Reduction Grant Program*, opportunity pursuant to SB19-008, RFA#30098, LOI due 3/7/20, Application due 3/20/20, in progress (LOI drafted, shared with Dr. Johnson and Colorado Springs Fire Department community partner 3/2/20, need to identify/confirm law enforcement partner)

Grant Denials:
- Colorado Trust, *Building and Bridging Power* (RISE Coalition-related) – LOI submitted; no invitation for full application notification received on 2/24/2020; follow-up call to discuss reasons for lack of full invitation scheduled for 4/6/20 with Dr. Susan Anthony and Ellie Miltcheva (phone conference call to Colorado Trust)
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, *Community Impact Contracts* – application submitted 12/6/2019; notice of denial received 1/26/2020; no individual evaluation remarks on EPCPH application provided; general comments on possible weaknesses only included in notification of denial due to large number of applications

Grant Opportunities Being Explored:
- **Anschutz Foundation** – county is eligible
- **Colorado Health Foundation** – upcoming deadlines June 15, October 15, funding areas: *Supporting Coloradans in Recovery through Peer Support Services; Kids Move More; Youth and Young Adult Resiliency*
- **Colorado Springs Health Foundation** – *Fostering Collaboration* (for new or existing collaborative efforts to address a key community health challenge); 2020 *Building Organizational Capacity* (to develop or refine skills, strategies, organizational systems, and/or structures); no deadline/rolling basis; identifying best EPCPH project/program to submit
- **Daniels Fund** – rolling basis, various funding areas, identifying best EPCPH project/program to submit
- **March of Dimes (Colorado Springs)** -- solicitation of grant announcement(s) in process; long-term partnership to be explored
• **May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust** – possible match in several funding areas
• **W.K. Kellogg Foundation** – rolling basis, various funding areas, identifying best EPCPH project/program to submit

**Grant Opportunities Monitored for Next Available Grant Cycle:**

• **Colorado Nutrition Program-LiveWell Colorado Produce Box Opportunity** – short turnaround and complexity of requirements precluded applying by 2/24/20; monitoring for next cycle
• **Colorado Health Access Fund** (administered by The Denver Foundation) – short turnaround and complexity of requirements precluded applying by 3/6/20, monitoring for next cycle
• **Gates Foundation** – funding opportunities periodically checked for applicable grant announcements
• **Mental Health Foundation** – same as above
• **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** – same as above

**February Grant Research Activity Summary (current through 3/3/2020):**

- Total number of funding sources researched: 52
- Monitoring for next available application cycle: 4
- Need to confirm County eligibility: 20
- Not eligible/not a match: 26

**Health Equity:** increase public awareness of health equity issues, its systemic causes, and opportunities to foster health equity, and remove barriers to health care and community resources to improve health outcomes among health disparate populations.

- MCH staff, TSP Planner and YHD Planner attended the *No Small Matters* screening which focused on the impact that the lack of high quality, affordable early childcare has on child development, hosted by Communities that Care and Alliance for Kids. YSUP Planner facilitated this screening and conversation in partnership with Department of Human Services and Alliance for Kids as part of CTC’s Build Public Support for Quality Childcare Early in Life strategy.
- The Immunization clinic served 80 “walk-in” clients, and the Family Planning clinic served 68 “walk in” clients in February. Offering the public walk-in clinic times at different locations helps to break down barriers and improve access to healthcare for those who have difficulty coordinating a traditional scheduled appointment. Additionally, Immunizations nurses provided vaccines at the Southeast WIC clinic in February to increase access to vaccines in this underserved part of Colorado Springs.
- Nurse-Family Partnership caseload is at 179 clients and growing. Nurse home visitors went on 233 home visits during the month of February. Meeting clients at their desired location helps to reduce barriers to health care. Nurse-Family Partnership hosted two playgroups during the month of February at the Southeast
WIC clinic. Hosting client community events helps our moms build a healthy support network and removes barriers to community resources.

- The Family Planning team continues to remove barriers to health care by providing reproductive and sexually transmitted infection (STI) services on a sliding scale basis to all members of the community who seek these services from EPCPH.

- HCP Care Coordination active clients: 58
- HCP new referrals: 28
- HCP information-only clients: 32
- Community outreach activities in 2020 to date: 21

2019 Quality Improvement Projects
(include when projects are first initiated, notable progress made or at completion)

- The Family Planning Program Manager identified pharmaceutical services that were not needed at a level that they were previously needed. This led to a cost analysis and rewriting of the pharmacist contract. This project is currently underway and will end up saving the department approximately $4000-5000 annually.