



Prevent • Promote • Protect

Director's Office

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Acronyms Used in June 2019 Board of Health Report

Acronym	Meaning	Acronym	Meaning
ACEs	Adverse Childhood Experiences	HCF	Healthy Children and Families
CALPHO	Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials	HCP	A program for children and youth with special needs
CD	Communicable Disease	IMIL	I am Moving I am Learning
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	MCH	Maternal Child Health
CHA	Community Health Assessment	NFP	Nurse-Family Partnership
CHE	Community Health Educator	PHQ	Patient Health Questionnaire
CHIP	Community Health Improvement Plan	PHT	Public Health Transformation
CJC	Criminal Justice Center	PYD	Positive Youth Development
CPCD	Community Partnership for Child Development	RISE	Resilient, Inspired, Strong, Engaged Coalition
CTC	Communities That Care	SRPF	Shared Risk and Protective Factors
DHS	Department of Human Services	TEPP	Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership
EH	Environmental Health	TSP	Teen Suicide Prevention
EPCPH	El Paso County Public Health	WAGS	Why, Amount, Goals, Solutions
EPSCO	El Paso County Sheriff's Office	WIC	Women, Infants and Children
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	YHD	Youth Health Development
GAD	Generalized Anxiety Disorder	YSUP	Youth Substance Use Prevention Planner
HCC	Healthy Community Collaborative		

To: Board of Health
From: Susan Wheelan, MBA, Public Health Director
Date: June 2019 (reflects May 2019)
Re: Director's Report

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Priority Areas:

El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) and all public health agencies in Colorado are required by Senate Bill 194 to complete a Community Health Improvement Plan (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 (HCC). 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

- EPCPH worked with the Quad Innovation Partnership to develop recommendations to increase healthy food access in three target neighborhoods. These recommendations, which were presented at the Partnership's Demo Day on May 6, are part of the broader food system assessment being conducted by EPCPH with funding from the Colorado Springs Health Foundation. The project represents an innovative, collaborative approach to meet goals identified in our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) including "Reduce household food insecurity" and "Increase access to a variety of healthy foods encouraged by the dietary guidelines".
- Resilient Inspired Strong Engaged (RISE) Coalition in collaboration with Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation & Cultural Services hosted *Meet Me in the Park* community party at Panorama Park in southeast Colorado Springs on Saturday, June 1, 2019. Panorama Park was designated by RISE as a key community need in southeast Colorado Springs and is slated for park renovations through a community-driven master planning process.
- The Women, Infant and Children (WIC) caseload for May 2019 is 12,781. Multiple efforts to reach those in our community who are eligible for WIC benefits but are not enrolled continue, including social media, our local "Refer a Friend" campaign, Happy Birthday Retention campaign, and staffing a booth at the El Cinco de Mayo Fiesta and Car Show at Mission Trace Shopping Center. Additional outreach is conducted monthly at the Deerfield Hills Community Center food pantry.
- Maternal Child Health (MCH) Community Health Educator (CHE) delivered I am Moving I am Learning (IMIL) training to a licensed child care facility, resulting in seven early childhood educators receiving training to support the implementation of routine physical activity in the classroom.

Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention

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

- The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program works with pregnant and post-partum women to identify depression and refer for behavioral health treatment. WIC staff completed 238 two-question Patient Health Questionnaires (PHQ-2s) and 12 referrals to AspenPointe for further evaluation and connections to meet their specific behavioral health needs during the month of May. These activities positively impact the health and wellbeing of our clients and reduce the stigma of seeking behavioral health services.
- Nurse-Family Partnership nurses assess clients' mental health utilizing the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) and Generalized Anxiety Disorder scale (GAD-7). Clients are assessed and monitored pre-natally and post-partum to identify changes. During May, 15 PHQ-9s and 10 GAD-7s were completed. Three referrals were made for counseling services and one referral was made for intimate partner violence. Early identification and treatment for depression and anxiety with our clients can improve outcomes for mother-child safety, bonding, and attachment.
- Youth Substance Use Prevention (YSUP) Planner and YSUP CHE facilitated meetings for three strategy teams that are creating implementation and evaluation plans for the Fountain Valley Communities That Care's selected strategies. These community and societal-level strategies are intended to reduce risk factors commonly associated with underage use of substances, and increase protective factors for young people.

Surveillance, Epidemiology and Emergency Preparedness

Emerging Issues and Emergency Preparedness

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator assisted Lake County by evaluating its full-scale exercise. This exercise focused on reunification of students after an active shooter incident.
- The Emergency Preparedness and Response Team responded to the Regency Towers Structure Fire. This fire occurred in a 55+ community 11-story apartment complex near the Broadmoor. Public Health assisted the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management and the Red Cross with evacuation of tenants, medication assessment, delivery of wheelchairs, coordination of animal rescue, and other support.

Hepatitis A Outbreak (2018-2019)

- As of May 31, 2019, 57 cases of hepatitis A were reported in people experiencing homelessness and/or people with substance use issues in El Paso County. Additionally, some cases in neighboring counties have been epi-linked to the El Paso County outbreak.
- To date, EPCPH staff have conducted or participated in 49 outreach events and, with the assistance of our community partners, have been able to administer 2,778 vaccines to targeted populations. Some of those activities include mobile outreach teams, points of dispensing at community events and several vaccine clinics at homeless shelters. Partnerships continue to be critically important in this ongoing effort, including collaboration with Westside Cares, Colorado Springs Police Department, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office (EPCSO), homeless outreach officers, Penrose and Memorial

Hospital Emergency Departments and the County jail. The communicable disease team continues active surveillance in this ongoing investigation, including weekly check-ins with the jail to ensure prevention efforts among the high-risk inmate population continue.

- In May, the EPCPH Immunization and CD staff provided: 236 vaccines administered at 12 different outreach events.

Influenza Season 2018-2019

- Influenza surveillance for the 2018 - 2019 season officially ended on May 18, 2019. Colorado estimated 3,825 people were hospitalized with influenza this season. The preliminary total in El Paso County is 463 hospitalized cases.

Rabies

- Two skunks tested positive for rabies in May. The total number of rabid animals year-to-date is 9: 7 skunks, 1 dog, and 1 fox.

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 610 Bacteriological water tests: 404 for public water systems and 206 for private wells. Eighty-nine water samples were assayed for inorganic anions. The Laboratory staff continues testing of the interface that connects the current laboratory information system with the new electronic health record system to streamline ordering and reporting of lab tests within the health department for greater efficiency.

Maternal Child Health

- HCP, a program for children and youth with special needs, provided care coordination services to support 56 families (caseload to date) and provided information and referrals to an additional 20 community members. Care Coordinators conducted four outreach activities providing 83 community partners with information regarding HCP services.
- Healthy Children and Families (HCF) CHE conducted 15 home visits and completed 15 intake assessments with Department of Human Services (DHS)-involved families.

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.

- A School Safety program liaison from CDPHE co-inspected high-risk areas of two high schools (science labs, industrial arts shops, art kilns, etc.) with two members of the EPCPH School Safety Team to provide additional training and technical guidance.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response staff participated in Planning Section Chief Training -- a four-day course offered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure staff are prepared for this role for our agency during incidents.
- The Family Planning program manager and two providers attended a Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Summit hosted by the Denver Prevention and Training Center and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) on May 1st to enhance their knowledge on the diagnosis, treatment, and factors involved in the increase in STI rates.
- Three trainings on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) will be conducted for all WIC staff during the months of May through July. With improved awareness and understanding of ACEs, WIC staff can improve their effectiveness with families by demonstrating additional understanding of factors that impact physical and behavioral health.
- WIC Registered Dietitian and International Board Certified Lactation Consultant conducted a webinar on the WAGS (Why, Amount, Goals, Solutions) technique for Colorado WIC staff. WAGS is a tool to help improve breastfeeding duration rates to partially breastfeeding women.
- A Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) CHE and MCH CHE attended the Positive Youth Development training hosted by Fountain Valley Communities That Care (CTC) to develop strategies for working with youth effectively, with a focus on public health.
- CHEs from MCH, TEPP and YSUP along with the YSUP Planner and the Youth Health and Development (YHD) Planner, attended the Shared Risk and Protective Factors (SRPF) Conference, which focused on learning and implementing strategies that take a shared risk and protective factor approach to prevent violence, injury and substance abuse.
- MCH CHE completed training to become a Masters-level Certified Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Trainer.
- MCH Care Coordinators participated in Safe Sleep training to support safe sleep education for families enrolled in care coordination services.
- YSUP Planner, YHD Planner, and Teen Suicide Prevention (TSP) Planner attended the El Paso County Leadership Development series.
- The Communicable Disease/Tuberculosis (CD/TB) and Environmental Health staff attended the following trainings to increase program capacity to respond to

communicable disease issues: Annual Epidemiology and Laboratory Conference, Zoonotic Disease Conference, Measles Response Tabletop Exercise, and an infection prevention training specific to long-term care facilities.

Technology, Informatics, Data Analysis: strengthen EPCPH's capabilities to collect, analyze, share, and use data to make timely and information-driven decisions.

- Staff in the Office of Development and Strategic Initiatives conducted analysis of motor vehicle accident fatalities in El Paso County and suicide fatalities by demographics, including age, gender and race/ethnicity.
- Three EPCPH staff participated in the 2019 Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Annual Conference June 2-6, 2019, which supports EPCPH's technology, epidemiology and analytic capacity.
- During May, the process to implement the new electronic health record system in the Nurse-Family Partnership and Maternal Child Health programs began. This was part of the ongoing effort to rollout the new system among several agency programs to enhance billing and documentation processes.
- Nurse-Family Partnership is exploring computer options to begin documenting cases in Patagonia, the new electronic health record system. Linking Patagonia and the new NFP data system will allow us to securely share Nurse-Family Partnership's data and aid in our ability to bill Medicaid for our services.
- Environmental Health trained CD/TB staff on use of the bite portal function of Envision Connect.

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.

- WIC completed a one-month paid social media campaign. The campaign, which targeted women ages 18-35 on Facebook and Twitter, focused on raising awareness about WIC. The ads received a cumulative 302,834 views, 235 EPCPH website link clicks, and 2,078 engagements.
- The Office of Communication attended a Frameworks Institute workshop on *Shifting the Conversation about Public Health*. The all-day training focused on how to address Public Health Transformation (PHT) communication needs, and how to develop a reframing campaign to communicate the value of Public Health more meaningfully. PHT is a statewide initiative spearheaded by Colorado Association of Public Health Officials (CALPHO) to chart the course to modernize and fund public health predictably and sustainably in order to serve the needs of our rapidly growing state and the changing needs of our communities.
- The agency continued to respond to media inquiries pertaining to hepatitis A and other emerging issues. The estimated earned media value for these interviews is \$1,403.92.
- The EPCPH website www.elpasocountyhealth.org had 8,769 new visitors in May, with 24,625 page views.
- The e-newsletter, *Nicotine News*, published by TEPP was distributed to more than 60 community partners to further engage and educate community members about local, state and national tobacco prevention efforts.

- TEPP team presented to students at Discovery Canyon High School in District 20. The presentations focused on dispelling common myths about vaping. The team participated in school wellness events in District 2 and 49 to educate students, staff and parents on the harmful effects of vaping and tobacco use.
- Fountain Valley CTC facilitated its first Positive Youth Development (PYD) training for 30 community members. PYD guides communities and organizations on how to organize services, opportunities and support to engage youth in reaching their full potential.
- YSUP Planner facilitated a session at the Shared Risk and Protective Factors (SRPF) Conference titled “Beyond the Coalition: Building a Brand for Your Community’s Prevention Work”. 40 participants from across Colorado attended to gain knowledge and skills on how to use common marketing and communications strategies to build a brand and sense of community trust for coalition in a community.
- YSUP CHE facilitated a session at the SRPF Conference with members of the Fountain Valley CTC Teen Advisory Board titled: Youth are the NOW: A Presentation by Teen Leaders to Help Adult Leaders Gather and Amplify Youth Voice. 70 participants from across Colorado attended to develop skills on how to create a teen advisory board in their communities.
- CD Epidemiologist conducted a hepatitis A lunch & learn for department staff. CD will host a second session for community partners on June 18 at Tim Gill Center for Public Media.

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

- EH staff and EPCPH Medical Director joined a delegation of Colorado Springs constituents on a tour of a tiny home village (Community First) in Austin, Texas. The village was developed as an alternative housing solution for the homeless. Health support systems and as well as infrastructure (i.e., drinking water, wastewater, and food service licensure, etc.) were evaluated for possible implementation of a proposed village here in El Paso County.
- Regional Epidemiologist attended the 10th Annual Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Disaster Epidemiology Workshop. The theme of this year’s workshop was “Putting Disaster Epidemiology into Action.” Presentations and roundtable discussion were focused on applying epidemiology in the disaster management cycle.
- Regional Epidemiologist, in conjunction with CDPHE Disease Control and Environmental Epi Division hosted and coordinated a tabletop exercise on measles as well as facilitated the 4th Annual Colorado Epidemiology and Laboratory Conference. This provided educational opportunities for epidemiologists, laboratorians, local public health agencies, clinics, and hospital infection preventionists throughout the state.
- Several staff members toured the new Crossroads’ Detox Center, helping to build relationships with those who work with high-risk clients. This visit also provided us the opportunity to plan a hepatitis A outreach event for the clients served by the Center.
- Nurse-Family Partnership partnered with Melody Alvarez, Early Literacy Librarian for the Pikes Peak Library District, to provide fun and engaging literacy services for our

bi-monthly NFP playgroup. Melody's energetic approach to early literacy has been a great model for how to make reading fun for our clients and their children. Partnering with Pikes Peak Library District may help us increase our attendance at playgroup, which helps improve client retention and provide information to our clients about the free reading/literacy programs at our community libraries.

- Nurse-Family Partnership hosted a Mother's Day Tea event on May 3 and had 29 attendees. This event celebrated our clients and their children. The partnership with the Southeast WIC office to utilize its space for our playgroup and this event has removed access barriers for many of our clients.
- Nurse-Family Partnership provided education to Community Partnership for Child Development (CPCD) Early Headstart Colorado Preschool program and doubled our referrals from them during May.
- TEPP partnered with Peak Vista to provide information on the impact of tobacco, the Ask Advise Refer (2As and R) intervention, and the Colorado QuitLine benefits to their medical staff at the Health Clinic at the International Circle location.
- TSP Planner presented on Colorado State Innovation Model (SIM)-funded youth suicide prevention work in El Paso County at the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) site visit. We discussed the Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup, TSP collaboration with our Regional Health Connector and other unique partners, and sustainability post-SIM funding.
- TSP Planner and YHD Planner led the May Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup meeting with 30 partners in attendance. The agenda included a presentation on research findings from co-responder models and a presentation on recent suicide attempt and fatality data gathered by the Data and Research Sub-Group. All seven sub-groups met and continued working on the goals in the Youth Suicide Prevention Community Action Plan.
- CD/TB presented updates on disease trends to the Infection Prevention groups at Memorial Central and Penrose.
- CD Epidemiologist presented on rabies to emergency department staff at Memorial Central and Memorial North.
- Hepatitis A training was provided to medical staff at the Criminal Justice Center (CJC).
- MCH CHE delivered BrainWise training to Department of Human Services caseworkers and Southeast YMCA summer program staff.
- MCH CHE coordinated a Community Resource Fair Parent Night for Stratmoor Hills Elementary School.

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.

- Staff in the Office of Development and Strategic Initiatives, along with EPCPH leadership participated in the Fort Carson Community Partnership Workshop on May 7. The discussion was an effort to gather various entities from the community to talk about possible partnership and discuss the potential for intergovernmental agreements (IGAs).
- PHT Cost Assessment update: YSUP Planner serves on the *Cost Assessment Project Management Team* and has been working closely with EPCPH's Office of Strategic

Initiatives and Development to begin work on the Cost Assessment Tool, which was released in May. The cost assessment will allow local public health agencies across the state to identify the current cost of providing core public health services, and to determine additional funding and resources that are needed to be able to fully implement services. This information will be presented to legislatures in the future to advocate for additional public health funding.

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.

- The immunization clinic served 96 “walk-ins” in the month of May. Family Planning clinic served 84 walk-in clients. These walk-in clinic times help to break down barriers and improve access to healthcare for those who cannot make it in for a traditional scheduled appointment.
- The Family Planning and Immunization clinic providers have streamlined the immunization referral process. This process helps us better serve the Family Planning clients by providing the opportunity to update their immunizations at the time of their appointment. This helps increase access to healthcare and prevents the spread of vaccine-preventable disease.
- Nurse-Family Partnership completed 12 telehealth visits during the month of May. Telehealth allows us to complete visits to maintain client retention, and to continue to build relationships with our clients. For example, telehealth can be used to make referrals, find resources, can be used during inclement weather, when a client is sick, or if a client has an urgent question.
- YHD Planner hosted Children’s Hospital Colorado’s Safe Kids Home Safety Sub-Group meeting, which focused on increasing community representation to address sleep-related infant fatalities. The group aims to increase credibility and partnerships with racial and ethnic groups that experience health disparities around sleep-related infant death.

2019 Quality Improvement Projects - Update

- A process map of Family Planning clinical processes was conducted in May with the eventual goal of using Lean Six Sigma to identify areas of improvement in efficiency in patient flow.