

**Two Rivers Public Health Department
10 Essential Services Board Report
June 2010**

1. Monitor health status and understand health issues facing the community.

As part of our yearly theme project, Make Play Part of Your Day, the committee has conducted surveys in the counties of the health department. Besides informing residents of Two Rivers Public Health Department, we were able to have informal discussions, related to health concerns and tally the comments. Each county has unique characteristics and needs. We realized that many in our area do not share the concerns of large cities, and we discovered many concerns that were close at hand, whether they included care for the elderly or the need for cleanliness. We found that a survey is a much harder task than we expected, with much more support for the survey in our smaller communities than in our larger ones.



Kerrey conducted a total of 34 communicable disease investigations. These included; Campylobacteriosis-8, Giardiasis-2, Cryptosporidiosis-1, Hepatitis B-5, Hepatitis C-12, Neisseria Meningitidis-1, Pertussis-1, Salmonella-3 and Step Pneumoniae-1.

2. Protect people from health problems and health hazards.

TRPHD staff followed up on 7 rabies reports and provided guidance and education to area residents and veterinary professionals.

Terry participated in a presentation entitled “H1N1-the Nebraska Response” at the Setting a Course for a Lifetime of Good Health Conference sponsored by DHHS. Grey Borden from DHHS, Anne O’Keefe from Douglas County Health Department, Teresa Anderson from Central District Health Department and Terry, representing the Two Rivers Public Health Department summarized the state, urban and rural responses, processes and partnerships that were utilized across the state to facilitate Nebraska’s coverage rate of 25%.

Amy participated in the Statewide Medical Reserve Corp/ESARVHP Consortium meeting and update. She also has been involved in planning for a functional exercise for the TRIMRS 23 county area scheduled for June 23. Amy was part of the University of Nebraska at Kearney’s full scale exercise held on April 15th. She was on the planning team and was in charge of the 80 victim patients that were utilized in the exercise for the hospital and 3 clinics.

Amy is on a planning team for the Buffalo County Medical Table which will be presented to the whole TRIMRS region to utilize. The Medical Table is a resource that can coordinate medical supplies and patient tracking during emergency situations.

A Respiratory Protection Program Template and supporting policy Template were developed based on OSHA standard for respiratory protection for district first responders (EMS/VFD) A protection plan/policy for Law Enforcement within the district remains in development at this point in time. A Respiratory Protection Program was also developed for the health department.

3. Give people information they need to make healthy choices.

2 press releases on rabies
NTV interview with Dr. Larimore on “Supersized Kids”
NTV interview on the status of the Clean Indoor Act in TRPHD
NTV interview on Allergies
NTV interview on Ticks
KUVR Health Talks in April and May –

Marsha presented an interactive nutrition talk to members of a Holdrege High School Health Class. Providing examples of food labels, students were able to analyze for themselves the content of many familiar foods. It was, then, easy for them to see that the most nutritious food did not contain many added ingredients, but simply was comprised of the Food! We were also able to visit about the importance of activity to help in proper weight maintenance.

4. Engage the community to identify and solve health problems.

Two Rivers participates in the Region 3 Behavioral Health Coalition. This coalition helps to raise awareness and work to provide services for those struggling with mental health issues.



On May 6th Farren and Heather went to present the winner of the 2010 “Make Play Part of Your Day”, coloring contest. This year 280 students in 14 schools participated in the coloring contest. The winner of the coloring contest went to Tayven Kier from Wilcox-Hildreth School. He received a prize, a certificate and 50 dollars for his school to purchase



some athletic equipment. Other winners were 2nd Place Grace Hudson from Franklin, 3rd Place Bethzy Dubon from Bryan Elementary in Lexington and 4th Place Ryan Mahalek from Park Elementary in Kearney.

A presentation entitled “Infectious Disease Surveillance: Public Health vs Hospital Based Surveillance” was delivered to Dr. D. Mowery’s Epidemiology class on April 5, 2010. The presentation highlighted existing and future surveillance methods and current reportable diseases.

5. Develop public health policies and plans.

Terry continues to serve on the Nebraska Healthy People 2020 Coalition which is working to develop new objectives for Nebraska modeled after the National Objectives which incorporate a Life Course Model of Systems Thinking, Best Practices and a web based system of access to the plan.

Terry and Amy provided Two Rivers Updates for 2009-2010 to the County Board members in Franklin, Kearney, Buffalo, Harlan and Phelps Counties. The remaining two counties are scheduled in June.

Two Rivers has been invited to participate in “Eyes of a Child” meetings. These meetings provide a forum for discussion by those in the judicial system and their community partners to assist families involved with the courts and their children to gain skills needed to build the strong families children need to attain optimal development. From time to time, this may mean that a new family must be formed through adoption.

6. Enforce public health laws and regulations.

Heather investigated two new clean indoor air complaints this month. Both facilities were “repeat” offenders being reported previously. They were informed and reminded that if another complaint is recorded they will be receiving a citation.

7. Help people receive health services.

As of May 15, 2010, **27,226** doses of H1N1 vaccine have been administered in the Two Rivers Public Health Department service area. The majority have been given through our major medical clinics, 19,846. This gives credence to our original plan to allow wide distribution and greater numbers of administrators to accomplish the purpose of administering vaccine to the greatest number of people. We found that offering vaccine to other specialty clinics, nursing homes, etc took a lot of time, but did not provide many doses, as they were used to receiving seasonal vaccine through their partnering medical clinic. Further, it did not provide the reporting incentive, since many received vaccine only once. We continue to distribute vaccine, as the medical clinics request it.

In an effort to remind parents of children under 9 that were immunized at a school based clinic to acquire the 2nd dose of H1N1 influenza vaccine, the department mailed 178 reminder cards to parents of children that were listed in the state immunization registry as having an incomplete H1N1 series.

In the first quarter of 2010, the Public Health Nursing Program followed up on 98 dental, medical or vision problem appointments. In addition, we assisted providers with 14 case management referrals. Case management referrals often involve working with several partners to achieve resolution. Recently, a concern was expressed about a young single mom with two small children. The concerns were great, so we were able to confer with her doctor and her case worker to keep her under Child Protection’s watchful presence, even though she was due to be released in just a few days. We were also advised by the state to report our documentation directly to the police department and we encouraged those in her building to report directly, instead of confronting her and risking their own safety.

With the warmer weather Two Rivers began holding the annual “Walk Out On Your Job” events. This years’ locations were, Cozad with 43 walkers, Franklin had 20 walkers, and Holdrege with 85 participants. This year we also had NTV on location to do a live broadcast of the weather during the walk and did a quick promotion of the walk along with an interview of the event coordinator, Heather Easton.



The first of the 2010 Medication Take Backs has begun. To kick off the events we started with Gosper and Harlan Counties on the 15th of May. Take Backs will also be held in Franklin, Kearney, Phelps, and Buffalo Counties this spring. We are very delighted that our amendment to the original grant was accepted, allowing Two Rivers to purchase an incinerator, and donated it into the capable hands of our Harlan County Sheriff, Chris Becker. Mr. Becker has worked very hard with Two Rivers to find resolutions to medication abuse issues. Because of his passion for this project, we have placed the incinerator in his jurisdiction. He will be accepting medications from other law enforcement entities and destroying them as well.



On April 14th we had the pleasure of bringing Dr. Walt Larimore to speak in both Lexington and Holdrege about childhood obesity. We had good attendance in both locations, and excellent feedback on our evaluations. Because of all the positive feedback and suggestions, we are already planning to bring Dr. Larimore back for a follow up event next year.

This year's YMCA of the Prairie's Health Kids Day was Friday, April 16 in the evening. Two Rivers participated by performing skin damage screenings with the derma scan on parents as well as the hand washing demonstration for the children.

8. Maintain a competent public health workforce.

Terry and Amy are both serving on the Public Health Association of Nebraska planning committee for the annual meeting that will be held September 30 and October 1, 2010 in Kearney, NE.

Terry attended the Nebraska Dental Hygiene Association Annual meeting and participated in continuing education on the topics of Access to Care and Remineralization in the 20th Century.

Terry attended the UNMC Board of Counselors annual meeting and participated in education about: the UNMC College of Nursing Answers the Call: Transformation in Health Professions Education, Break Throughs in Ophthalmology – Stemming Vision Loss with Stem Cells and NE Retinal Prosthesis Project, and tours of the UNMC School of Allied Health and Pharmacy. Funding concerns are one of their top priorities as they are with any institution that receives state funding.

Terry and Kim and a dental hygienist from Cozad participated in "Infectious Disease Prevention" a continuing education videoconference sponsored by Southwest District Health Department and DHHS that was provided at no cost to the participants.

Amy and Kim attended an Agriterrorism update/review in Holdrege. This was attended by emergency management, producers, law enforcement and health departments. It provided an update of trainings that were held in 2004 to plan for animal disease response.

Heather and Amy attended a Nebraska Rural Water training in Blue Hill and participated in a table top exercise with local water operators.

Amy and Kim attended a planning session on updating all of the departments Strategic National Stockpile plans. The updates are due in September.

Kerrey attended the Maternal/Child Health Conference in Hastings NE. Information included approaches to teen pregnancy, genetics and pregnancy induced hypertension.

Marsha attended the Area Agency on Aging update training on Medicare D on April 21st.

Marsha, Kim and Kerrey all attended the Breastfeeding Conference that was offered via telehealth network. Many new ideas concerning changing the culture of breastfeeding in our area were discussed.

Marsha, Kerry and Kim attended a conference updating nurses across the state on TB presented via telehealth by Kristin Gall and Pat Infield of NEDHHS on May 19, 2010. This inservice was coordinated by TRPHD with a targeted audience of Corrections nurses.

Kim participated in a web conference on Infection Control in the Behavioral Health Setting on May 11, 2010.

9. Evaluate and improve programs and interventions.

TRPHD staff continues to work with DKG consulting to develop a 2010 Strategic Plan for the Department and a Balanced Scorecard for tracking progress.

Terry met with the Young Children Priority One program coordinators and Dr. Sorenson to discuss the specifics of the 2010 contract with DHHS and changes and improvements that will be made in the program, the evaluation and the reporting in 2010.

An H1N1 hotwash was conducted in Buffalo County on April 21st. Additional hotwashes are being scheduled in Dawson and Phelps Counties on June 10th. All of this information will be gathered and submitted in a report to the State. It will include action items to improve our response.

10. Contribute to and apply to the evidence base of public health.

The Young Children Priority One dental health pilot program is being utilized as a template for additional preventive dental program funding from DHHS which will be offered through local health departments in Nebraska. The programs will be supported by contracts funded by the newly procured HRSA funding that will be coordinated under Dr. Karen Sorenson, the new DHHS State Dental Director.

On April 22, Marsha completed her responsibilities to the Subcommittee for Children and Youth with Special Health Care needs by presenting her committees' work on Functional Limitations to the large Maternal Child Health group in Lincoln. Ten priorities were established, using research backed studies, by the entire group. These priorities will become the same priorities that will be used to allocate funds and design programs for Nebraska's Five Year Maternal Child Health Federal Block Grant.