

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

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

School Illness surveillance began on September 8th. We will be working with 65 schools to monitor absenteeism due to illness. Specific syndromic illness information is collected weekly and reported to the state. Influenza like illness surveillance with our sentinel physician continues year round. Influenza like illness surveillance with the 8 hospitals, medical clinics, nursing homes and UNK.

Two Rivers staff are investigating the use of the LiveWell Health Risk assessment as an alternative to the TRALE instrument that the department is currently using.

Two Rivers hosted a Buffalo County Influenza providers meeting at the request of participants in the 2009-2010 H1N1 group. Resources and information was shared on Seasonal influenza. Notes and resources from the meeting were shared with the remaining county H1N1 groups with the invitation to hold similar meetings at their request.

Kerrey has investigated a total of 44 NEDSS cases throughout August and September. Six cases of West Nile have been investigated.

2. Protect people from health problems and health hazards.

The 2009-2010 H1N1 Vaccine Campaign draws to a close as, Sanofi Pasteur shortened the expiration date of all remaining 2009-2010 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine to September 15, 2010, regardless of the date printed on the multi-dose box. Several clinics have contributed their remaining vaccine for shipment by Two Rivers through the Central Vaccine Recovery Program.

Two Rivers in coordination with Region 15 Emergency Management, wrote and was awarded a grant from the Phelps Memorial Health Center Foundation to purchase a trailer to store and transport cots and blankets in emergencies. This trailer will improve response time if the cots are needed as they are currently being stored in the basement of the Phelps County Courthouse.

Two Rivers continues to be involved in planning for a full scale exercise to be held during the week of June 13-17, 2011. This exercise is in preparation of a full scale State-wide exercise to be conducted in the next few years that will bring in the CDC Strategic National Stockpile. In conjunction with this exercise, TRPHD ERC is on the planning team for a full scale exercise for the Tri City Medical Response System (TRIMRS) in 2011.

TRPHD provided training to and assisted during the fit testing process for 2 district hospitals and 1 EMS squad. Dates have been set for training and testing for 2 additional hospitals for October.

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

NTV interviews:

8-5 Skin Cancer with the Dermascan on site at the Holdrege Pool

8-9 Heat related illness

8-12 Back to School information

8-12 Live interview from Lexington Unnatural Causes forum

8-19 Seasonal influenza vaccine

8-26 Handwashing

9-9 Greater Buffalo County COAD Safety Fair

9-16 Colds and Allergies

9-23 Dr. Richard Raymond – NE Local Health Department-Tobacco Settlement Funds

9-30 Bedbugs

9-24 Press release on West Nile Virus

KRVN 8-9 Lexington Unnatural Causes forum interview

KUVR – Health Talks on August 24th and September 28th

Two Rivers staff participated in a West Nile Education booth at the Nebraska State Fair. Health information and resources on multiple topics was shared with the public. This opportunity was a group effort of 5 rural health department districts and was funded by DHHS West Nile funds.



In August, as part of our yearly theme, we had planned to encourage appropriate health screenings for adults. Since we had already received requests for the Derma Scan skin screening in a few locations, we decided that this, too, fell under an appropriate “screening” umbrella. Also, since “Make Play Part of Your Day,” encourages outside activity, this would help participants become more aware of the damaging effects of the sun and provide them with the impetus to make necessary changes.

On August 5th, Two Rivers’ staff, in conjunction with the Pool Cool program, conducted about 15 Derma Scan Screenings at the Holdrege pool. Participants were primarily pool staff. NTV interviewed staff and showed images from the Derma Scan to their television audience.



On August 12th, and also on August 19th, Two Rivers offered Derma Scan screening to Buckle employees. 22 took advantage of the first date and 20 employees participated in the second screening and also received sun safety, West Nile, nutrition and activity handouts.

On August 20th, Amy and Farren participated with a booth at UNK Blue Gold Day!

August 25th, nursing staff conducted Derma Scan screenings for the Tri Basin NRD, as a part of their wellness program. 13 took advantage of the screenings, and also were offered nutrition, activity, West Nile, and sun safety handouts.



September is Safety Month. Because unintentional poisoning was the 5th leading cause of unintentional injury death in children ages 0-19 between 2003 and 2007 in Nebraska we targeted safety with common products as part of our Yearly Theme Project. On September 21, Martin Denton of the Nebraska State Patrol spoke to Loomis 5th and 6th graders on the dangers of huffing. He also discussed why someone might use these substances, but most importantly, he gave students tools in problem solving. He encouraged the students to: 1) name the problem, 2) talk to someone about the problem, and 3) to learn from your problems. He also explained that telling on a friend that is participating in harmful behavior is the right thing to do.

On September 11, we participated in the Buffalo County COAD 4th Annual Safety Fair at the mall in Kearney. We provided photo IDs for kids that said "I Am Prepared". We were able to distribute a lot of information about emergency preparedness to parents as they waited.



We participated in the Gothenburg Parade on September 18th. We continued with the Make Play Part of Your Day theme by distributing Frisbees and DEET wipes.

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

Two Rivers participated in and moderated two sessions of Unnatural Causes with the Office of Health Equity and Health Disparities in Lexington and Kearney. 12 people attended in Lexington and would like to continue to meet. 20 people attended in Kearney and plan to participate in the BCCP Community Health Access Team's Diabetic Pathway community forum scheduled in October. Thank you to Fernando Barranco and Dick Pierce for attending as representatives for the Two Rivers Board of Health.

Two Rivers partnered with the Nebraska Medical Association and the Nebraska Dental Association to host a Public Health Advocacy Forum facilitated by Dr. Richard Raymond, former Chief Medical Officer of the State of Nebraska on September 22. The event was attended by 25 participants, including two of our State Senators and 6 BOH members as well as 7 staff members. Speakers included Dr. Raymond, Dave Palm from DHHS, and Dr. Karen Sorenson, DHHS State Dental Director and former Two Rivers Board member.



August 26th, nursing staff attended a workshop/meeting titled "Helping Babies from the Bench". Judge Robert Ide had requested their attendance and input into ways to better serve our area children that are involved in the court system. Judge Douglas Johnson and Dr Mark Hald provided valuable insight and strategies to assist children and their families. We will continue to be involved with this initiative.

September 3rd, nursing staff attended the ESU 11 Early Intervention Regional Team Planning meeting in Holdrege. Strategies were developed for increased identification and referral of young children needing Early Intervention services.

On September 14th a presentation was given via the TESH network over Telehealth to School Nurses at 16 sites in Nebraska on the long term sequelae of Childhood Cancer and Treatment. A presentation was given to Greater Omaha APIC providing an overview of information learned at the international APIC conference. CDC outbreak investigation and H1N1 lessons learned was some of the content.

5. Develop public health policies and plans.

Two Rivers staff participated in an August 18th Home Visitation Needs Assessment Teleconference. Two of our counties, Buffalo and Dawson, have been identified as counties that could profit from a targeted home visitation program, and we await the direction this funding at the state will take.

The Director submitted letters to Senators Johanns and Nelson from the Department and the Board of Health asking for their consideration in removing the Public Health and Prevention Funding as the offset to replace resources that will be lost if the Johanns Amendment to the Healthcare Reform Act is adopted by the Senate.

The Director is participating in the NMA Childhood Obesity Conference which has identified 3 issues to prioritize for the 2001 Legislative Session:

- 1) To protect the rights of women to breastfeed in any location they have the right to be
- 2) To remove the tax-exempt status of all beverages except milk, 100% juice, and plain water; and direct subsequent revenue to child health and obesity programs.
- 3) To encourage the Nebraska administration to apply for a waiver to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps) so that the only beverages those funds can purchase are milk, 100% juice and plain water.

Two Rivers Emergency Response Coordinator continues to be involved in a workgroup to rewrite the Public Health Emergency Response Plan Template that will be used State-wide. This template will be more in line with the Emergency Managers Local Emergency Operations Guide. Amy will also be presenting this information with Randy Fischer from DHHS at the NACO Conference in December to Emergency Managers and other local health departments.

6. Enforce public health laws and regulations.

Two Rivers staff worked with Kathy Karsting, DHHS School nurse to provide information on head lice and school exclusions from Nebraska State Statutes and the American Academy of Pediatrics to the administration at Gibbon Public Schools. These newly revised resources have also been shared with all of the schools in the District as this is a yearly issue with all of our schools.

Two Rivers staff are following up on 2 requests from DHHS for Tuberculosis followup. One involves providing Direct Observation Therapy five days a week for 6 to 9 months to assure compliance and recovery from the disease. The second is still in testing stages for possible exposure to active TB during a plane flight. Staff have arranged for skin testing and followup for the 3 people involved.

7. Help people receive health services.

In August and September, visits were made to eleven dental clinics in Buffalo and Dawson counties, including three new or reconfigured offices, as part of the Public Health nursing program. Two hospitals and three medical clinics in Dawson County were also contacted. Two of the new dental clinics already plan to participate in the Public Health Nursing Program which links Medicaid eligible children to medical, dental and optometric providers.

From July 1st through September 15th, The Public Health Nursing Program followed up on 55 problem dental appointments, 20 problem medical appointments and two problem vision appointments. The nurses also followed up on 16 case management referrals.

Recently, a provider came in to our office with a story of a child, who, badly needing dental services, has lacked the support of family to receive those services. The provider subsequently reported these concerns to Child Protection Services. We were able to follow up with the child's case worker, located in Gering, who stated she would also report to CPS and follow up.

8. Maintain a competent public health workforce.

Two Rivers staff worked with Kathy White, Hepatitis Coordinator with DHHS, to hold an educational session on Diseases of the Liver, with Drs. Ed Marino and Daniel Brailita at Good Samaritan Hospital that was available on site and through videoconference. The session was a great success with RNs in attendance at Good Sam and multiple sites connected across the state.

NE Family Helpline information presentation for staff was provided by Holly Abrahamson of the NE Family Helpline which was developed to address the need for behavioral health services.

The Director and BOH representative, Kerry Teetor, attended the NALBOH annual conference in Omaha and participated in educational sessions on multiple topics pertaining to the Local Board of Health and Health Department staff. Kerry also served as a Nebraska host and greeter for one of the sessions. The Director presented a poster session for the Nebraska SACCHO (Local Health Directors) which detailed the formation of the Local Public Health Departments in Nebraska.

Two Rivers staff is working with the new virtual server system that was approved by the Board of Health at the April meeting. We are continuing to work with Intellicom to assure that all of our Department needs are being provided by this new system.

Two Rivers is pleased to have a new intern joining the team in September. The full time student at UNK is majoring in Speech Pathology and will be assisting at the Department. Her main duties will be entering data from the Health Risk Assessments the WOW Schools have completed. The data collected is critical for the grant, and having her enter the assessments on a computer is a very time consuming process. We appreciate her willingness to accomplish this task and the opportunity to continue to work with UNK in their intern programs.

TRPHD Emergency Response Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator attended the 8th Annual Bioterrorism Symposia on August 3-4, 2010. The Symposia provided the latest updates from local, state and federal entities relating specifically to disaster preparedness.

On September 17th, nursing staff participated in a Webinar conducted by Dr. David Greenberg of Sanofi Pasteur. Dr. Greenberg explained influenza in older adults and reviewed the rationale for the new Fluzone High-Dose Influenza vaccine that contains four times the antigenic material of each strain than is in the regular Fluzone formulation. Information for connecting to the webinar was shared with medical partners in our district as we have been receiving many questions about the high dosage Fluzone vaccine.

On September 20, nursing staff attended a Teleconference sponsored through the UNMC College of Nursing at the Kearney Campus. One presenter spoke about her work with the Sudanese culture and the opportunity to work with the leaders to help change perceptions of domestic violence from a cultural norm to an act of cowardice against women. Other presenters told of the challenges of nursing in Haiti after the earthquake and the ingenuity required when providing even limited care to patients.

9. Evaluate and improve programs and interventions.

The Director participated in Strategic Planning with the DHHS Office of Health Equity and Health Disparities, DHHS staff and local health department directors.

The Director attended the UNMC College of Public Health Panel of Advisors where she is representing the rural local health departments. The task of the group is to provide ideas and input for the College of Public Health as it develops and provide discussion and direction for innovation, excellence and accountability to improve the public's health.

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

Our Wellness Coordinator presented information on our Winners of Wellness (WOW) School Employee Wellness Program at the Public Health Association of Nebraska Annual Convention in Kearney. Her presentation was part of a program sharing the results of the best practice programs funded by DHHS Implementation grant funds in Nebraska.

Two Rivers staff are participating in the pilot phase of the KU Community Toolbox/ODSS an online documentation system specific to public health. The work station has an interactive and customizable online support system for our community work. It provides a central collaboration space for sharing documents, information and ideas. It also provides integrated supports for building capacity, documenting and evaluating efforts. Members of the site can contribute their own ideas and content, as well as comment or contribute to other's postings.