

2009 Annual Report of Two Rivers Public Health Department

Two Rivers Public Health Department serves the seven counties of Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney, and Phelps in south central Nebraska. It is the 4th largest health department in the state of Nebraska, serving a population of 93,550 people.

The following report is for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 regarding the activities of the department and the expenditure of funds received from LB 692 and LB 1060. The total operating budget for Two Rivers Public Health Department in 2008-2009 was \$863,927 including infrastructure and per capita funds of \$318,468 and assessment and surveillance funds of \$100,000.

Mission Statement

The Mission of Two Rivers Public Health Department is to assess and monitor the health status of the district and facilitate the linking of resources to assure health promotion and prevention services are meeting the needs of the public in Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney, and Phelps Counties.

Vision

The vision of Two Rivers Public Health Department is:
"A healthy community for all"

Priority Areas

Emergency Response/Surveillance

Wellness

Resource Access/Website

Minority, Maternal and Child Health

Our Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships Assessment has further prioritized: Obesity, Substance Abuse and Access to Behavioral Health Services

Assessment

Essential Services:

Monitor health status to identify community health problems
Diagnose and investigate health problems and hazards in the community
Inform and educate and empower people about health issues

Monitor Health Status:

TRPHD utilized information and statistics provided by Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in the many surveys and reports that they produce such as the BRFSS, YRBS, Census Data, etc, to help us prioritize needs in our district. They provide us with county, district, statewide and national data as requested when available.

TRPHD is continuing to work with DHHS, the Office of Public Health and the Local Health Directors to develop a web based Community Health Assessment that can be utilized by local Health Departments and other partnering agencies to provide timely data that is comparable county to county, district , and statewide as well as national. *

TRPHD invested 1060 funds to complete an additional 500 interviews for the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) in our district as have all the 692 Health Departments in the state. TRPHD is coordinating with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and UNMC in this assessment which will provide more local information as well as comparisons to state and national statistics to help us better direct our planning and resource allocation. *

The H1N1 virus outbreak in April and May 2009, provided the opportunity for daily monitoring of influenza in our district in the hospitals, clinics and schools. We connected daily to calls with DHHS, the Nebraska Public Health Lab and local health departments for updates on cases, testing, protocols and response to the virus in our district. We also participated in calls with the CDC for up to date recommendations. All influenza surveillance continued throughout the summer and H1N1 continued to circulate. *

TRPHD invested 1060 funds in the English and Spanish version of the State Association of County and City Health Officials (SACCHO) TRALE Health Risk Assessment. This is a web-based personal Health Risk Assessment that is available in 14 of the local health departments state wide. It provides local health data to each department which can be compared with results statewide. This is valuable information for local planning and resource allocation. TRPHD has compiled Health Risk Assessment aggregate reports for our District from our Department data. According to the Two Rivers' data gathered thus far, the

highest risk factor in the district is nutrition (not enough fruits and vegetables) high Body Mass Index (BMI) is second; and lack of exercise is third. *

TRPHD worked with Buffalo County Community Partners to complete a Minority Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey in Buffalo County.

TRPHD has contracted with DHHS to facilitate the utilization of the electronic medical record with one of our district medical offices to allow automatic reporting of sentinel physician Influenza like Illness data to DHHS and the CDC.

Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems and Hazards

Two Rivers utilizes 1060 funding for our disease surveillance activities. TRPHD works with DHHS to conduct epidemiological investigations and follow up on health issues including: food and water borne illness, vector-borne disease, hepatitis, and emerging infectious diseases. TRPHD has conducted 227 disease investigations using the NEDSS (Nebraska Electronic Disease Surveillance System). Our local medical providers, hospitals and schools also initiate contact with us when they have cases or questions that TRPHD can assist with. Multiple staff has been cross-trained to help with the surveillance program. An additional Public Health Nurse completed the CDC Applied Epidemiology Course in the fall of 2008 as part of the cross training. TRPHD encourages area lab personnel to utilize the NEDSS system. TRPHD also participates in scheduled surveillance conference calls and educational opportunities with DHHS.*

Our department has been active in surveillance of zoonoses (animal borne diseases). TRPHD has investigated cases and educated both public and private sectors about West Nile Virus, rabies, tick-borne diseases, bedbugs and tularemia. TRPHD works with Dr. Annette Bredthauer, DHHS Veterinarian, and local vets and medical providers to follow up with rabies cases to assure proper protocol has been followed when exposures have occurred. TRPHD has conducted 10 rabies investigations resulting in seven people with sufficient enough exposure to undergo treatment. TRPHD also assists in locating rabies vaccine for providers when needed and developing press releases and working with the media to increase public awareness. *

TRPHD participates with DHSS in West Nile Virus surveillance activities in our district. TRPHD contracts with the City of Kearney, the City of Holdrege, and the Dawson County Extension Service to assist the department with mosquito specimen collection. TRPHD works with local veterinarians to collect bird specimens for analysis. TRPHD developed informational brochures and posters on West Nile Virus and distributed this information throughout our district. We highlighted WNV education by providing fly swatters and packets of DEET

towelettes in parade floats throughout the district TRPHD distributed press releases to all media in our area and have conducted interviews with media when requested to provide the public with timely information. *

TRPHD is continuing to develop contacts and protocol for serving the immigrant populations in Dawson County for the management of communicable disease cases including Tuberculosis and H1N1 Influenza. Our department is working with the medical community, DHHS, and others to develop a system to help us manage the needs. With the continued influx of refugee populations into our area, TRPHD sees an ongoing need for this service and Language Line access in order to communicate effectively. It is becoming even more important to develop contacts and resources with various entities that can help us serve this population and protect the health of the public. Two Rivers continues to be a member of the Refugee Task Force in an effort to better serve the people in our area. *

TRPHD has begun offering Infection Control Nurse Educational Sessions at no cost to the participants. These trainings are on a variety of topics and they provide timely education and the opportunity to network. These may be attended in person or via telehealth. One of these sessions featured Ed Marino, PA-C of Porter Adventist Medical Center in Denver. His topic was the Gastrointestinal System and Diseases of the Intestinal Tract. The presentation was at Good Samaritan Hospital but was also connected with area hospitals through videoconferencing.*

TRPHD participates in the DHHS School Illness Surveillance program to provide early detection of absences due to illness in 65 (85%) of the schools in our district. TRPHD is specifically tracking absences due to flu, asthma, and rashes and shares the collected statistics in a graph form with the participating schools. This system was also utilized to assist school districts in defining protocol and parameters for school closings during the 2009 influenza season. *

TRPHD participated in the DHHS Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) Surveillance program to monitor flu incidence and vaccine location during the 2007-2008 influenza season. TRPHD gathered ILI data from all eight of our district hospitals and 17 of our medical clinics and the University of Nebraska – Kearney Student Health Center on a weekly basis and reported that information to DHSS. TRPHD provided the hospitals, medical clinics and UNK with certain charts and reports supplied by the state which allowed our medical providers to track trends and compare the previous year's data. TRPHD was also available to answer questions and provide assistance to our providers and other facilities such as long term care facilities as needed. *

Nuisance complaints are addressed by working with the jurisdiction of the complaint and our local resources. TRPHD utilizes the Environmental Epidemiology Guidebook developed by Central District Health Department, and

collaborates with DHHS, Nebraska DEQ, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, local government officials, and many other entities to assist us in finding solutions for our constituents.

Inform, educate and empower people about health issues.

TRPHD provides timely oral and written updates to all seven county boards, State Senators and media in our district. Annual reports are distributed to each community in our district. TRPHD maintains contact with our local, state, and national legislators and provides information when health and emergency response issues warrant their attention.

TRPHD maintains a website www.tworiverspublichealth.com with up to date education and information. We are in the process of updating our website to make it easier to navigate and more user friendly. TRPHD has developed brochures and other resources on a variety of health topics and they are shared with other health departments, agencies and the public. Topics covered include: Pandemic Flu – The Stage is Set, the Current, Two Rivers Public Health Department, West Nile Virus, Fifth Disease, Bicycle Helmet Safety, Liquid Candy (pop), Dental Health, Men’s Health, Fast Food Choices, Nutrition and Exercise, Influenza, Head Lice, Medication Safety, H1N1 Influenza and others. Many of these resources have been translated into Spanish and are available for viewing or printing on our website or from our office.

TRPHD supplies public health information, press releases, live and taped interviews, and other requested information to all of the media outlets in our district and state. TRPHD participates in a monthly radio program on KUVR in Holdrege that addresses health concerns and information. TRPHD covers a multitude of subjects and it gives us the opportunity to share timely public health information with a wide variety of listeners.

For the past school year, TRPHD has been working with the Holdrege and Lexington Public School Systems to integrate a school employee wellness program we refer to as WOW (Winners of Wellness). Because of our program’s success and participant satisfaction combined with the fact that two thirds of our district reports BMI’s in the overweight category, we received funding from DHHS to expand the program to include another school system. The program has been offered to the Alma School District, and they have accepted with a lot of excitement and anticipation. This years’ project will be very similar, but the emphasis on this year is to train schools on how to implement their own wellness policies. We will also be including Southern Valley schools in portions of the program with the plan to include them in the entire program the following year.

Our department was tasked with compiling a public health cache of supplies to be kept in our area. As part of that cache, TRPHD purchased N-95 masks for public health emergencies. Before the masks can be utilized for real events, each person must be fit tested to ensure that they know how to properly put on the masks and that they have the appropriate mask for their face. With that in mind, TRPHD conducted training in January for individuals to learn how to use the two portacount machines (computerized fit testing machines for N95 masks) that were purchased through the Tri-City Medical Response System (TRIMRS), which we are a member of. The training was conducted for hospitals, health departments, and the Regional EMS Coordinators in the TRIMRS area. The machines are utilized for fit testing hospital, clinic staff and Emergency Medical Services personnel. TRPHD provides masks and supplies for testing for the EMS squads that cannot afford their own or are not affiliated with a hospital. We share the portacounts with 3 other local health departments so providers in the Two Rivers area are able to utilize the equipment for 6 months during the year.

TRPHD coordinated with the Red Cross to purchase 300 cots (200 for special needs people and 100 that would be for larger individuals) and 750 blankets to be placed with other Red Cross shelter supplies throughout the district.

TRPHD continues to work with the county emergency managers to provide IDs for all responders (law enforcement, EMTs, county employees, etc.) as requested. These IDs allow for better identification when responding to an incident and for better record keeping.

TRPHD developed a float to participate in parades throughout the district with funding for WNV educational activities. DEET wipe packets and “mosquito (fly) swatters” were distributed to the parade attendees.



The TRPHD's Public Health Month activities included sending press releases to the media on health topics and our annual coloring contest for District 2nd graders. The 2009 theme was “Hand-washing Keeps Me Healthy”. This year 260 students in 12 schools participated in the coloring contest. The winner of the coloring contest went to Moriah Aberle from Franklin Public School in Franklin, NE.

She received a prize, a certificate and 50 dollars for her school to purchase some athletic equipment. Other winners were Maggie McGinnis, from Cozad Elementary, Shailey Axmann from Pleasanton Elementary and Carrie Osburn also from Cozad Elementary. TRPHD distributed promotional items with the TRPHD logo to increase our visibility in the district. TRPHD also has monthly displays in our front window addressing health issues in the district.

TRPHD creates and distributes a school health newsletter, "The Current", four times during the school year to all schools in the district which includes timely health information, educational opportunities and other resources. TRPHD also develops other health information resources when requested or appropriate such as our latest topic which explains the consequences of disposing of pharmaceuticals into local water systems and landfills which results in contamination of our groundwater. TRPHD also participates in school health fairs and serves as a resource to school nurses and staff.

TRPHD collaborates with DHSS, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and Nebraska Department of Agriculture to serve as a resource and referral contact for the public in issues that have included: food and restaurant safety, immunizations, tuberculosis, STD, rabies surveillance, influenza like illness, mold, building and environmental safety, mercury collection, water safety and many other health issues.

Our department provides access to a Personal Health Risk Assessment at no cost in both English and Spanish on our website. This gives our constituents access to information about their personal health that can be printed off and shared with their medical providers and utilized to work toward better health habits. It will also provide health statistics at the county level for use in future planning. *

TRPHD has participated in many area health events such as Diabetes Fairs, YMCA Healthy Kids Day, UNK Blue/Gold Day, UNK Public Health Career Day, health fairs, school health education events, UNK Kids Fitness and Nutrition Day, safety fairs, county fairs and other programs.

TRPHD provided hand sanitizer to all seven of the county fairs in our district which were placed in the animal barns and in food booth areas.

TRPHD conducted Walk Out on Your Job events in Holdrege, Minden and Alma, to encourage exercise and good nutrition to improve the health of over 200 area residents.

Policy Development

Essential Services:

Mobilization of community partnership to identify and solve health problems

Develop policies and rules that support individual and community health problems

Mobilization of Community Partnerships

TRPHD is part of a statewide project with the Office of Minority Health that is funded through a grant with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for pandemic influenza preparedness. The project involves identifying and recruiting interpreters and translators to be utilized in a Pandemic (or other emergency) situation. H1N1 education, tabletop exercises and community forums were held in Gibbon and Lexington. Buffalo and Dawson Counties have been included in the project because they have over 5% minority populations.

TRPHD partners with organizations that work with Special Needs/Vulnerable Populations in our district to do emergency planning. Topics of planning include: communication methods for before, during, and after events; what kinds of information can be sent out to help people prepare; and access to medications after an emergency. Loup Basin Public Health Department and Central District Health Department representatives are included in these meetings because many of the organizations cover all of our counties, such as the Red Cross and Area Agency on Aging.



The funding we received from a \$30,000 MAPP implementation grant from DHHS which allowed us to facilitate in designing and implementing School Employee Wellness Programs has been extended for another year in the Lexington and Holdrege Public School systems and has been expanded to include the Alma Public School system. The program was a huge success with the pilot schools and the Alma School System is very excited to be a part of this program. Activities planned during the school year include physical activity and nutrition challenges, and many guest speakers speaking on a variety of topics. Beginning data is showing us that participants of the WOW program are losing weight and eating more fruits and vegetables.

TRPHD and the Central Nebraska Coalition Against Substance Abuse (CNCASA) received Nebraska Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) funding for planning and implementation of programs in our seven counties through CNCASA. TRPHD transferred the planning and program implementation funding for CNCASA to Region 3 Behavioral Health Services who is serving as the grantee, fiscal agent and program supervisor for the Coalition. The Coalition has received funding for programming for alcohol prevention for the 2009-2010 year.

TRPHD worked with partners to develop a Mental Health Task Force workgroup which includes Region 3 Behavioral Health Services, local Health Department Directors, and local health screening, education and service providers to: 1)

Assure that individuals who experience a substance abuse or dependence disorder and/or mental health disorder receive services to reduce the adverse health effects of substance abuse, promote the health of the individuals and reduce the risk of transmission of disease, and 2) Improve access to behavioral health and substance abuse services. This group will continue to collaborate to facilitate these goals.

TRPHD works with Medicare D recipients to help them enroll in the appropriate program that will best meet their needs. They are providing educational packets of health information to the participants. To date the nurses have assisted over 130 individuals to review or enroll in a Medicare D plan for 2009 in addition to fielding many phone calls.

TRPHD received a contract from DHHS to provide funding for a pilot dental program for high risk, underserved young children and pregnant mothers in our District. This funded several pilot projects in our area that targeted high risk moms and young children through dental health education, preventive dental supplies, fluoride varnish and povidone iodine treatments, use of xylitol chewing gum, development of a surveillance and tracking assessment instrument and other similar projects. This contract is being completed with Dr. Sorenson, the Kearney Area Kiwanis Club members and contracted program staff. Over 500 children and mothers have been served by this program. We are very happy to have this opportunity to provide these preventive services in our area.

TRPHD is very involved with the Tri City Medical Response System (TRIMRS) as part of the steering committee as well as having one staff person serve on the Executive Committee. TRIMRS is a rural medical response system and includes the 23 counties in the South Central Nebraska region that are covered by Central District Health Department, Loup Basin Public Health Department, South Heartland District Health Department, and Two Rivers Public Health Department. This organization is made up of hospitals, emergency management, government, health departments, EMS and other organizations. TRIMRS has provided funding for emergency response training of hospital personnel and emergency responders; funding for the telehealth network for the health departments; development of a Medical Reserve Corp; funding for ham radios and satellite phones to address interoperable communications, and the development of tabletop and functional exercises in the district.

TRPHD has been actively involved in addressing tobacco use by promoting the Clean Indoor Act LB 395. Activities included offering power point presentations to businesses and communities, and printing and mailing smoke free literature to businesses and Chambers of Commerce in the Two Rivers district. After the implementation date (June 1, 2009) Two Rivers began taking non-compliance calls, which have been very minimal and handled with personal visits to the establishments. We contribute this success to the vast distribution of materials

done by our staff and other support coalitions as well as the statewide coordination of education and information.

TRPHD participated in the sixth annual UNK Kids Fitness and Nutrition Day in September 2009. 643 fourth grade students and 60 sponsors from schools in the Two Rivers Public Health Department district spent the day learning about healthy nutrition and noncompetitive physical activities and how to incorporate them into their lives. Two Rivers Public Health Department supplied reusable water bottles and staff for the event. Partners in the project were: UNK Department of HPER, Nebraska on the Move, Nebraska Beef Council and Two Rivers. TRPHD will participate again this fall and we hope to include more students in the event.

TRPHD regularly utilizes our telehealth network connections to facilitate public health meetings and education for our staff, board of health and partners. TRPHD also offers our resources to other public health partners in the area to facilitate their programs. Entities that have utilized our facility include the Family Advocacy Network, Juvenile Justice Committee, Emergency Management and others. This resource not only saves money, staff time and resources but increases our ability to participate in areas that are priorities for us.

The Director of TRPHD is a member of the National Association of City and County Health Officials, American Public Health Association, the American Dental Hygiene Association, the Nebraska Association of County Officials, the Nebraska Preventive Health Advisory Committee, the Nebraska Comprehensive Cancer Control Statewide Partnership, UNMC Chancellors Board of Counselors, the DHSS Public Health Law Team, the Central Nebraska Area Health Education Advisory Board, the Prevention Advisory Coalition, the Central Nebraska Coalition Against Substance Abuse, the Central District Methamphetamine Work Group, Buffalo County Community Partners Board, Nebraska Educational Alliance for Public Health Impact, the PMHC Foundation, and serves as Chairman of the Local Health Directors Section of PHAN (SACCHO).

The Emergency Response Coordinator serves as the Chairman of the South Central Regional Local Emergency Planning Committee and Exercise Design Team, is a member of the Buffalo County Local Emergency Planning Committee and Exercise Design Team, serves as the Chairman of the Emergency Response Coordinators Section of PHAN, the Secretary of the Tri-Cities Medical Response System, the Secretary of the Greater Kearney Area Community Organizations Active in a Disaster (COAD) as well as the Chairman of the Phelps County COAD.

The Health Educator/Wellness Coordinator is a member of the Central District Methamphetamine Summit Committee, Buffalo County Tobacco Free Coalition, the Buffalo County Prevention Advisory Committee, Phelps County SAFE

Communities committee, the Nebraska Environmental Health Association, and CNCASA, the substance abuse program that was implemented through the MAPP process.

The Surveillance Coordinator is a member of the Public Health Nursing section of PHAN, the Building Blocks Advisory Committee, the Early Development Network, Interagency, the Refugee Task Force, and Good Beginnings.

The Public Health Nurse is a member of Public Health Nursing section of the Public Health Association of Nebraska (PHAN), Building Blocks Advisory Committee, Community Health Access Team, Family Resource Council coalition of Buffalo County, Interagency coalition from Dawson & Gosper counties. ..

The Department belongs to the Public Health Association of Nebraska (PHAN), the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), the American Public Health Association (APHA), Nebraska Rural Health Association (NRHA), the National Rural Health Association, and a multitude of local resource organizations.

The Board of Health belongs to PHAN and the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) and the State Association of Local Boards of Health (SALBOH).

Development of Policies and Procedures

Two Rivers staff visited each hospital to review plans and procedures for responding to the H1N1 influenza outbreak and the protocol for accessing supplies and antivirals from Two Rivers' stock and the Strategic National Stockpile. We are developing forms and policies to utilize when these stocks need to be accessed.

TRPHD Board of Health adopted a Bylaws change to conduct their meetings following Roberts Rules of Order and the Open Meeting Law.

Two Rivers has contracted to provide real time back up for our computer system that will be accessible through a secure website in the event of a disaster that effects our Department.

TRPHD Board of Health adopted a resolution on October 7, 2008, supporting Community Water Fluoridation as an economic public health measure in preventing tooth decay.

Policies and procedures continue to be developed and modified for the Department, the TRPHD grant committee and the Board of Health.

Assurance

Essential Services:

- Enforce laws, rules, and regulations that protect public health and the environment and ensure safety.**
- Link people to needed medical and mental health services and assure the provisions of health care when not otherwise available.**
- Assure a competent workforce within the health care industry and public health departments**
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of services within the health care industry and public health departments**
- Research to gain new insights and innovative solutions to health problems**

The TRPHD Board of Health has directed that services already being provided in the district not be duplicated by the Department. TRPHD collaborates and partners with Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services System and public and private agencies to assure services are being provided in our area and to help link access to those services. TRPHD is also assessing and addressing gaps that exist.

Enforce laws, rules and regulations

TRPHD either assists with enforcement or refers persons to proper agencies for local regulation such as restaurant complaints, building code issues, sanitation issues, licensing, etc.

TRPHD will be involved in the implementation and enforcement of the Methamphetamine Clean Up Regulations in partnership with local law enforcement and county attorneys in our seven counties.

In late March, Two Rivers had the opportunity to work closely with the University of Nebraska at Kearney, DHHS and local medical providers to manage the care of a student with Tuberculosis. Our ability to communicate with all entities involved has proven to be the key to a successful and safe management of the individual's care. The client was compliant with the recommended care and is continuing the regimen of medications.

Link people to needed medical and mental health services

TRPHD contracted for additional office space in the Johnson Building to provide secure and improved facilities for our Public Health nurses and the clients they serve and services they provide.

TRPHD contracts with Nebraska Health and Human Services System to provide the Public Health Nursing Program in our seven county district and provides 25% of the public health nurse's salary to support the program. The target population for the Public Health Nursing Program is Medicaid eligible and potentially eligible individuals and families. In 2008-2009, with the capable help of our Program Assistant, TRPHD has mailed 2800 newly eligible packets to Medicaid eligible clients in our seven counties, advising them of the importance of preventative health care and the many resources available to them.

Tracking failed medical, dental and vision appointments and educating on correct use of the emergency room are both important deliverables that are reported each quarter. In this program year, the nurses have followed up on a total of 943 problem appointments. Case management referrals often come verbally from providers' offices with especially complex concerns. These referrals may necessitate a home visit, a call to a caseworker, or a call to Child Protective Services. The nurse followed up on 71 case management referrals in this program year.

The Health Department helped over 130 individuals with their Medicare Part D prescription plan. Many of those people were assisted by appointments in our office, while others were helped over the phone or through the mail. This has proven to be time consuming and at times very challenging for the Department. We will be working with the Area Agency on Aging to plan and partner with other agencies in our area to better assist the seniors in our district in 2009.

The TRPHD Building Blocks Program is a child abuse prevention program for at risk families. Over the past few years however, we have discovered that we are not only receiving referrals for at risk families but moreover; we are referred families that are in crisis after agencies have failed to hold these parents accountable for dangerous behaviors. Frustrated providers are sending referrals related to families that should be handled through the court system. But, due to administrative and fiscal constraints and the inconsistency in standards of accountability currently demanded by the system, these families are being funneled in our direction. We are a voluntary participation program and without consequences set forth by law for deficient behavior, we find ourselves ineffective. Our professional obligations mandate reporting, but we do not possess the authority to protect children. Therefore, we did not reapply for the grant through the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. Without the proper cooperation of essential agencies in our area, we are unable to fulfill our mission.

The Two Rivers Public Health Department provides funding to sustain the immunization clinics at seven sites throughout our district. Additional clinics were held in Alma and Elwood due to requests from those communities. No child is turned away from these clinics for an inability to pay. Data concerning the records of each child is included in a new state-wide web based data base (NESIIS) which is currently available to all immunization clinics supported by DHHS. This internet based system will eventually enable local medical clinics to access immunization records. The immunization clinics served 1119 children in 2009 compared to 1447 in 2008. 849 of these clients were seen for the first time by the clinics and 2913 doses were given. 364 of the families required interpreters and 343 of the families had no insurance coverage.

Accessibility to dental services is one of the problems TRPHD faces in south central Nebraska, particularly for those people on Medicaid or those with no insurance. Two Rivers Public Health Department participated in UNMC Dental Day on 2-6-09 with the UNMC College of Dentistry for the sixth year. Dental screenings were provided to 52 children in Lexington for the UNMC Dental Day in December 2008. Drs. Fagot, Mandelko and Hanson, staff, school RNs and volunteers accomplished the screening. 50 children qualified for the trip to Lincoln for services and 39 made the trip. \$26,000 of treatment was performed on the children from Lexington that participated in Dental Day XV, approximately \$665.00 each. Two Rivers expenses for this program totaled \$3,522. The positive gain for the participants far outweighs the dollars invested by the Department.

TRPHD has been able to participate in the Dental Day program with Drs. Fagot, Mandelko and Hanson in Lexington, Lexington Schools and the UNMC College of Dentistry for six years. In that time there have been 332 children ages 5-18 who were screened and 283 of these patients received treatment at the UNMC College of Dentistry. A total of 2828 dental procedures have been accomplished on these children with an approximate value of \$141,500.

TRPHD received a contract from DHHS to provide funding for a dental program for high risk, underserved young children and pregnant mothers in our District. This funded several pilot projects in our area that target high risk Moms and young children through dental health education, preventive dental supplies, fluoride varnish and povidone iodine treatments, use of xylitol chewing gum, development of a surveillance and tracking assessment instrument and other similar projects. This contract is being completed with Dr. Sorenson, who serves as our dentist representative on the Board of Health, the Kearney Area Kiwanas Club members and contracted program staff. Over 500 children and mothers have been served by this program. WIC and Head Start in Kearney and Lexington are active partners in this programming. We are very happy to have this opportunity to provide these preventive services in our area.

TRPHD provided \$2,500 in funding from DHHS to support providing dental services to children in our neighboring health department, Central District Health Department, through the Ronald McDonald Dental Van in July. Third City Community Clinic and Dr. Karen Sorenson, DDS (a Two Rivers Board of Health member) spearheaded the project. The van spent 5 days in Grand Island, NE providing restorative dental services to over 100 children that had been prescreened by school nurses and dental professionals.

TRPHD coordinates and collaborates with Region 2 and Region 3 Behavioral Health Services in our emergency planning activities, exercises and response to emergencies.

TRPHD is a member of the Community Health Access Team of the Buffalo County Community Partners and the new priority area of concern is access to health care for uninsured and underinsured people in their county. They have completed a Minority Behavioral Risk Factor Survey in 2008.

The Board of Health has established a grant program to provide funding for programs that meet the Mission Statement, Priority Areas or District Public Health Improvement Plan objectives of TRPHD. They have awarded funding for the following grants and program assistance during 2008-2009:

- \$15,000 in funding for the Public Immunization Program of Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska to continue their program in the seven county area for the 2009 year
- \$500 to Good Beginnings in Franklin County to help provide mental health treatment access to constituents in the district
- \$100 Phelps Memorial Health Center Silver Run

Assure a Competent Workforce

TRPHD provided an educational session for infection control nurses in our District. Ed Marino, PA-C of Porter Adventist Medical Center in Denver, spoke at Good Samaritan Hospital and area hospitals through videoconferencing regarding the GI System and Diseases of the Intestinal Tract.

TRPHD sponsored a program at Kearney Family Practice and Associates. Dennis Leschinsky, an Epidemiology Program Specialist with the State of Nebraska, provided a program to medical and nursing staff on the subject of pertussis. We value his expertise and willingness to travel to share his knowledge with professionals in our district.

Two Rivers is involved in a state-wide effort to bring a coordinated Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to all of the counties in the state. The Central Nebraska

Medical Reserve Corp (CNMRC) was created by the TRIMRS organization and serves all of the counties in the TRIMRS region. Not only is the CNMRC recruiting, training, and organizing volunteers to assist in public health emergencies and non-emergency situations, they are also attempting to address the liability issues involving volunteers by looking at possible new legislation. This is being done through collaborative efforts with the Nebraska Unicameral, Senator Joel Johnson, and Medical Response Systems across the state, local health departments and many other local organizations, such as the United Way.

TRPHD is included in a statewide project funded with a grant from the CDC for Pandemic Influenza preparedness. One grant focuses on identifying special needs populations and utilizing **GIS** (Global Information Systems) to map information for use in an emergency – partners in this project are: UNMC, DHHS and Local Health Departments.

TRPHD facilitated a Public Health Nursing networking meeting via Telehealth. 11 Health Departments connected via Telehealth. We discussed ways to best fulfill our contracted duties in a timely and efficient manner.

The Director is serving on the UNMC College of Public Health Professional Education Subcommittee which is helping to develop both the Bachelor of Public Health and Master of Public Health programs at the University. Remote access to classes and recruiting on outstate campuses are two of the stressed suggestions that are my priority for the programs in outstate Nebraska. She is also serving on the Advisory Board of the new Certified Public Health Manager program that has been developed at the University of Nebraska - Omaha. Both of these programs have the goal of improving and growing our Public Health Workforce in Nebraska to better meet the needs of our state.

Two Rivers staff serves as guest lecturers in Public Health 101 offered at University of Nebraska-Kearney as part of their new minor in Public Health program headed by Dr. Deb Mowry.

TRPHD is working with Central Community College, University of Nebraska-Kearney, UNMC College of Nursing, Methodist College of Nursing and others to serve as public health rotation/experience site for students during their education.

All of the Health Department staff has completed the National Incident Management Systems courses IS100, IS200, IS700 as required by a directive issued by President Bush and the Office of Homeland Security.

The staff of TRPHD attends a multitude of educational programs and seminars to increase our knowledge base and better serve our constituents. TRPHD staff also cross train to allow personnel to step in and assist when needed. TRPHD utilizes our videoconferencing equipment and connection with the Telehealth network to increase our opportunities for education and decrease the amount of

time and cost to our Department. TRPHD makes this resource available for other agencies use in our district when appropriate, such as the Family Advocacy Network for law enforcement and county attorneys, Infection Control Nursing Education, etc.

Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of services within the health care industry and public health departments

TRPHD staff are currently using state assessments, data developed by various organizations throughout the state along with own needs assessment as our starting point for ongoing strategic planning by our Board of Health and Department staff in developing plans to better meet the needs of our citizens. TRPHD continues to add to our informational data and will utilize it for future planning. *

State statute gives us the responsibility of addressing access to care in our district. Currently, TRPHD address means of attaining needed services through coordination or cooperation with area providers and linking of persons to those services that are available. TRPHD continues to build partnerships within the communities that will enhance this goal. One of our primary areas of focus is Access to Behavioral Health Services which was identified by our Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships assessment.

TRPHD has also participated in the exploration of the development of a Federally Qualified Health Center in the central portion of the state where access to care is a huge issue and the closest similar facility is over 150 miles away. At the present time, funding for planning was utilized in the Grand Island and Hastings areas and an application for the formation of a FQHC will be submitted. If funded, this will be a great benefit to the constituents in the Two Rivers District. The statistics provided by the planning portion of the grant showed that TRPHD constituents utilize both the Third City Community Clinic in Grand Island and the Mary Lanning Community Clinic and Primary Care Clinic in Hastings to access medical care. TRPHD will continue to participate in this process as a stakeholder.

Research to gain new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

TRPHD is utilizing the format and processes of the Basic Screening Surveys developed by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors to evaluate the Young Children-Priority One programs in our dental contract with DHHS. Kathy Phipps, RDH, MPH, PHD is serving as a consultant for the program and is working with Dr. Sorenson and Roxanne Mickey, RHD. This will allow us to gather data that can be compared for results over time as well as compared to similar projects that have been and are being implemented.

Dr. Deb Mowry, the Director of the new University of Nebraska – Kearney, Public Health Minor program partnered with Two Rivers and the Lexington and Holdrege School Systems in our Winners of Wellness school employee wellness programs. Dr. Mowry is the head of a research project on health literacy as a component of the school employee wellness programs that were developed by the schools.

The Health Directors are continuing to work with DHHS and UNMC to develop a web based Community Health Assessment with County and District level data along with state and national statistics for department use as well as use by our partners and the public.

TRPHD staff is working with the State Association of County and City Health Officials on developing Standards and Measures for Nebraska Public Health Departments that will be utilized to prepare for the National Accreditation process that is being discussed and developed.

TRPHD provided an educational session for infection control nurses in our District. Ed Marino, PA-C of Porter Adventist Medical Center in Denver, spoke at Good Samaritan Hospital and area hospitals through videoconferencing regarding the GI System and Diseases of the Intestinal Tract.

Staff is encouraged to attend developmental and educational seminars, trainings and meetings that may give them new outlooks and skills in their field of expertise. Because of the size of our department and the many needs of our district, staff is cross-trained in many areas.

TRPHD regularly monitors area news sources as this allows us to monitor communities and assists us in knowing when meetings are being held that TRPHD needs to attend that may involve public health or situations have occurred that could benefit from our input.

Two Rivers Public Health Department is continuing to improve our capabilities to provide the core functions and ten essential services of public health to the people TRPHD serve in our seven county district. TRPHD is very grateful for the funding and support we receive from the State of Nebraska which helps us develop the public health infrastructure, partnerships and resources TRPHD needs to serve our citizens. TRPHD will continue to improve our capacity to strive toward our vision of “a healthy community for all” with your continued support and funding.

* - Indicates activities funded by LB 1060 funding from the general funds

**Two Rivers Public Health Department
Expenditures for Infrastructure and Per Capita Funds**

Health Department: Two Rivers Public Health Department

Total Funds Received: \$318,468.43

Total Funds Expended: \$302,564.86

Budget Period: July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

Expenditures for Per Capita and Infrastructure:

Line Items	Expenditures
Personnel	\$ 112,807.46
Benefits	\$ 38,214.85
Travel	\$ 11,266.25
Office Expenses/Printing	\$ 39,943.92
Communications/Advertising	\$ 4,541.99
Insurance	\$ 571.80
Mini-Grants	\$ 850.00
Public Health Programs	\$ 58,259.55
Equipment/Construction	\$ 5,300.00
Contractual	\$ 30,809.04
Other*	\$ -
Totals	\$ 302,564.86

*Please explain the major items included and their dollar amount.

Mini-Grants

Good Beginnings	\$750.00
Phelps Memorial Silver Run	\$100.00
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	\$850.00

Public Health Programs

Public Health Nursing Match	\$25,569.77
Building Blocks	\$3,255.03
Winners Of Wellness	\$1,593.23
UNK Kid's Fitness Day	\$4,936.42
Water Protection	\$1,333.64
Substance Abuse	\$7,541.79
Wellness	\$732.28
Public Health Month	\$492.18
Walk Out on Your Job	\$1,527.22
Dental	\$4,782.72

Health Lifestyles	\$361.79
Clean Air	\$64.48
Medicare Part D	\$6,069.00
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	\$58,259.55

**Two Rivers Public Health Department
Expenditures for General Funds**

Health Department: Two Rivers Public Health Department

Total Funds Received: \$100,000

Total Funds Expended: \$83,668.89

Budget Period: July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

Expenditures for General Funds:

Line Items	Expenditures
	\$
Personnel	30,037.03
	\$
Benefits	10,123.99
	\$
Travel	2,124.30
	\$
Office Expenses/Printing	9,452.47
	\$
Communications/Advertising	990.82
Insurance	\$ -
Mini-Grants	\$ -
	\$
Public Health Programs	16,394.89
Equipment/Construction	\$ -
	\$
Contractual	14,545.39
Other*	\$ -
	\$
Totals	83,668.89

*Please explain the major items included and their dollar amount.

Public Health Programs

H1N1 Surveillance	&	
Response		\$14,422.46
Tuberculosis Surveillance		\$1,972.43
		<hr/>
		\$16,394.89