

# **DEPARTMENT REPORT OCTOBER, 2013**

## **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

- The Health Director attended the Community Health Endowment Board of Trustees Annual Retreat. She also serves on the Endowment's Funding Committee.
- The Health Director participated in the LR22 meeting at the University of Nebraska Medical Center to discuss the future of health care in Nebraska.
- The Health Director attended the Local Health Director's meeting as part of the Public Health Association of Nebraska Annual Meeting in Grand Island.
- The Health Director attended the Lincoln Public Schools Medical Advisory Committee – a semi-annual meeting to assist with health policy setting for Lincoln Public Schools.
- The Health Director and key staff continue to meet with Lincoln Fire and Rescue management staff on issues of mutual interest to both departments.
- The Department is participating in the Combined City/County Campaign for the United Way, Community Health Charities and the Community Services Fund of Nebraska. The kickoff luncheon was held at the Auld Recreation Center on October 1, 2013. Presentations were made to the Mayor's Cabinet, County Management Team and to the Health Department staff at the Department's All Staff Meeting.
- The Employee Relations Committee hosted an Employee Appreciation Luncheon for Department staff on October 31, 2013.
- Employee of the Month - The Water Team – Environmental Health Division - Doug Smith, Nate Hartman, Karl Dietrich and Jim Newman

## **ANIMAL CONTROL**

	<b>Sep 11</b>	<b>Sep 12</b>	<b>Sep 13</b>
<b>Pet Licenses Sold</b>	4361	4506	4601
<b>Cases Dispatched</b>	1857	2212	2037
<b>Investigation</b>	2031	2358	2221
<b>Animals Impounded</b>			
<b>Dogs</b>	139	144	143

<b>Cats</b>	166	117	135
<b>Court Citations Issued</b>	15	36	28
<b>Warnings/Defects Issued</b>	743	1345	1280
<b>Bite Cases Reported</b>	41	43	34
<b>Attack Cases Reported</b>	2	5	3
<b>Dogs Declared (PPD, DD,V)</b>	10	10	6
<b>Animal Neglect Investigations</b>	47	55	48
<b>Injured Animal Rescue</b>	64	81	84
<b>Wildlife Removal</b>	51	48	48
<b>Dead Animal Pickup</b>	234	208	188
<b>Lost and Found Reports</b>	235	216	195
<b>Phone Calls</b>	4255	4580	3776
<b>Average Response Time (in mins)</b>	27	26	23

- Animal Control is continuing to promote the “Tag It” pet licensing campaign. Staff attended the UNL East Campus pet event on Saturday, October 26, 2013. There was a free micro chip clinic and other interesting demonstrations and educational booths. Approximately 75 dogs received a microchip. Pet owners could visit the Animal Control booth and view laptop presentations on pet care and bite prevention. The event was hosted by the UNL East Campus Veterinary Sciences Department and several local Veterinarians. Animal Control provided information on bite/attack prevention, licensing, vaccinations, wildlife trapping and relocation, and other popular animal topics.
  
- Wildlife is more prevalent this time of the year and you may see more wildlife in and around your home. Animal Control will assist with injured and sick wildlife and should be called at 402-441-7900 if you have concerns. Healthy wildlife are numerous in the City and are not trapped by Animal Control. The Animal Control website is a good resource to learn more about wildlife trapping and relocation.
  
- Staff will be following up more frequently with owners of potentially dangerous dogs and dangerous dogs in the next few months. Compliance with Lincoln Municipal Code has improved, however, follow up contacts are usually needed to assure good compliance among owners that have dogs recently declared and may not understand or be aware of the requirements. Staff attempt to explain and educate individuals before writing defects or citations.
  
- Interviews will begin in a few weeks for an Animal Control Officer I position that was vacated by an employee this past August. We hope to have a replacement by mid-December.

- Several Animal Control employees will be completing the Incident Command training computer course over the next few weeks. This is part of our preparedness planning and training. The Division Manager has also met with the staff from the Capital Humane Society regarding our roles in disaster responses and preparedness.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES**

### **FLU VACCINE**

- CHS began offering flu vaccine on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Flu vaccine is available for two populations: 1) children ages 6 months through 18 years of age who are on Medicaid, uninsured or underinsured, and 2) poor & uninsured adults ages 19 and over ( $\leq$ 185% Federal Poverty Level and no private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, military, government nor any other type of health insurance). Flu vaccine for children is provided by the Vaccine for Children federal program.
- Adult flu vaccine is provided in the clinic and through specialized outreach to homeless and near homeless populations. Eighty five (85) unique individuals received flu vaccine during the Project Homeless Connect-Lincoln event on October 10, 2013. Other flu clinics offering the vaccine to homeless and near homeless individuals are scheduled at the Center for People in Need, the Gathering Place, and at Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach. Nursing staff are working with student nurses to arrange additional flu vaccine clinics at Food Net events.

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRAINING**

- CHS case management and clinical staff participated in a day and a half training provided by the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition on domestic violence and sexual assault. The purpose of the training was to enable staff to (a) identify the complexities of domestic and sexual violence, (b) examine considerations for response, and (c) develop the skills necessary to respond effectively. Patients of CHS case management and clinical services are screened for domestic violence using the following questions: (1) have you been hit, kicked, punched, or forced to have sex with or otherwise hurt by someone within the last year, (2) have you been screamed at, insulted, cursed at, or put down by someone within the last year, (3) do you feel safe in your current relationship, and (4) is there someone from a previous relationship who is making you feel unsafe now? If the screening is positive, patients are referred to appropriate community resources – including law enforcement in times of imminent danger. CHS has policies in place for staff to respond to domestic violence and child abuse situations. Annual training of staff on these issues is essential.

### **PATIENT SATISFACTION SURVEY**

- One hundred twenty three (123) patients participated in a satisfaction survey the week of August 5 through 9. During this week, staff from clinic services (CHS, Dental and WIC), customer services/registration desk, and home visitation services made a concerted effort to obtain feedback from our patients about “how we are doing”. Our customer service goals are to be responsive, professional, friendly, and timely. Patients rate their service on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1=poor service and 5=excellent service. Overall, our services were rated 4.73 out of 5.0 by our patients for this time period. Patients continued to comment that waiting times for clinic services were longer than expected. While clinic waiting was a topic of a Quality Improvement Expedition in the past, CHS staff will review this issue again.

## DENTAL HEALTH & NUTRITION SERVICES

### WIC

#### Caseload (Participation): (301 report)

<b>Total</b>	3481
<b>Main</b>	2587
<b>LMEP</b>	234
<b>Cornhusker Clinic</b>	660

#### Food: For May 2013 -

<b>Food Monthly Obligations</b>	\$ 232,031.15
<b>Food Pkg Avg.</b>	\$ 66.45
<b>Women</b>	\$ 39.97
<b>Infants</b>	\$ 141.81
<b>Children</b>	\$ 44.19

#### Mentoring:

(Number and school)

<b>Students</b>	5 UNMC RN students
<b>Interns</b>	1 Eastern Michigan RD
<b>Volunteers</b>	

### Dental Health

- During the month of September, dental staff provided 541 clients with 850 client visits. Of the 541 clients served, 273 were children (50.5%). Of the 273 children served, 64

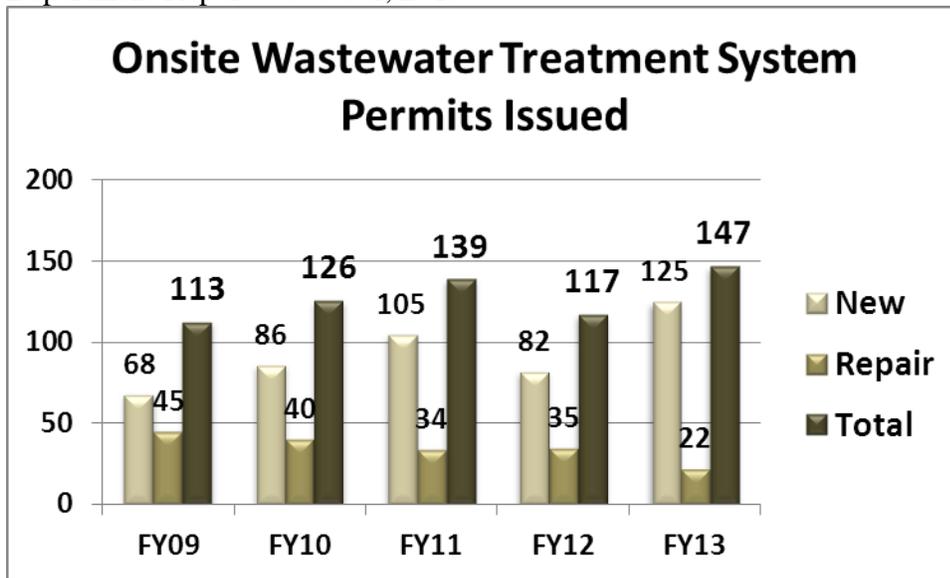
children were aged 4 years and under (23.4%) with 10 children aged 1 year (4%). The dental staff has set, as a targeted priority, to serve more children beginning at the age of 1.

- Of the total clients served, over 52% of the clients seen were Medicaid eligible, 31% of the clients fell at or below poverty receiving services at a minimum fee for service, 3% of the clients were General Assistance enrolled receiving services at no fee, and 13% of the clients fell in the range of 101%-200% of poverty receiving services on a sliding fee scale. Fifty-five clients were seen during extended hours with 52 children (93%) served during the extended hours.
- Dental staff provided 108 Early Head Start and Head Start children at the Educare Center with dental assessments, brushing instructions and fluoride varnish applications. Those families not reporting a dental home are provided referral information for accessing dental homes.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OSWWTS) & Installer Permitting**

- One of the goals of the Water Quality Program is to protect human health by preventing waterborne illness through preventing ground and surface water pollution by sewage. Our performance based budgeting indicator for the OSWWTS program is to ensure 100% of new and repaired on-site wastewater treatment systems meet regulatory requirements. We accomplish this goal by:
  - permitting and training installers;
  - reviewing site plans to protect wells, ground and surface water from sewage contamination;
  - reviewing construction plans for all new and repaired systems;
  - reviewing soil types to assure the right kind and size of system is installed;
  - providing technical assistance to installers and homeowners;
  - issuing permits authorizing system construction;
  - conducting inspections prior to covering septic system laterals; and
  - taking enforcement actions requiring discharges of sewage to be stopped.



### Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Permits Issued

	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13
<b>New</b>	68	86	105	82	125
<b>Repair</b>	45	40	34	35	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>147</b>

- FY13 had the largest number of onsite wastewater treatment system permits issued over the past five years.
- City ordinance and County resolution require onsite wastewater treatment systems to be permitted (\$355) and inspected, and any person that constructs a system must be certified as an Installer. In FY 13, 147 permits were issued, requiring 309 inspections. Direct costs for the OSWWTs program are about 44% fee funded.
- Health is delegated authority to regulate OSWWTs by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), thus assuring efficient use of government resources. NDEQ offers training for installers and state certification; local regulations recognize the State certification, but we retain a locally enforceable, low cost permit for installers. Health Department staff serve on a statewide advisory committee. We also partner with the Nebraska Onsite Wastewater Association, NDEQ, and County Extension on training and education.

### Special Waste Program

- The goal of the Special Waste Program is to protect public health and the environment by assuring that industrial and business waste is properly managed. Businesses that generate

any one of the 35 different “special” wastes is required to submit an inventory of their wastes and disposal information. We accomplish this goal by:

- reviewing inventories to determine applicability of proper disposal methods
- reviewing submitted material safety data sheets (MSDS) and laboratory test data
- issuing permits with specific permit conditions to protect human health and the environment
- provide businesses with recycling options and pollution prevention opportunities
- provide technical assistance on management of hazardous waste

### Special Waste Permits Issued

	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>FY12</b>	<b>FY13</b>
<b>Existing</b>	772	793	846	981	1004
<b>New</b>	21	53	135	132	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>1113</b>	<b>1004</b>

- The two largest special waste categories are petroleum-contaminated refuse (filters, rags, absorbents, soil) and infectious waste from labs, hospitals, nursing homes/assisted living, medical, dental, veterinarian clinics.
- The Special Waste Program is 100% funded through permit fees and occupation tax.

### Assistance to Small Businesses

- The Health Department coordinates hazardous waste collections twice each year for those businesses that generate less than Federally regulated amounts of hazardous waste (<220 lbs per month). These collections reduce risk of hazardous spills and fires, which can impact neighborhoods and our environment, and eliminate potential occupational exposures. Each business that participates saves from \$600 to \$1200 in mobilization fees, labor charges and transportation costs by participating. The disposal cost is paid for by each business at the City's contracted cost.

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>lbs of waste</b>	17,509	9,090	17,579	18,652	13,758	11,363	<b>87,951</b>
<b># of Businesses</b>	49	29	38	42	32	35	<b>225</b>

## HEALTH DATA & EVALUATION

- With the onset of cold temperatures, it is likely that we are at the end of West Nile virus (WNV) season. There have been 13 confirmed cases of WNV reported in Lancaster County (this is a similar number to the total last year) and there have been a total of 184 cases in the state this year. These individuals had symptoms (fever, fatigue, neurological conditions) that caused them to seek medical attention. In addition, there were four blood donors from Lancaster County who were positive for WNV (these people had no symptoms) and there were 38 positive blood donors statewide.
- Fall is the start of flu season and there has been one confirmed case of influenza (Type A) in Nebraska already in October. With the presence of flu in the state, this is a reminder that the best prevention against the flu is to get vaccinated. It's a recommendation from the CDC that everyone six months of age or older get immunized against the flu. The Department began giving flu immunizations to eligible clients and staff on September 30<sup>th</sup> and local pharmacies, clinics and physician's offices have flu vaccine in various formulations (shots or nasal sprays as well as the number and types of flu strains in the vaccine) and it is the right time to get immunized. Remember, it takes two weeks after the vaccination before individuals develop full immunity.
- Health Data & Evaluation has developed a Vital Records (birth and death data) dashboard that is now available on our website. The link is <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/data/vitalstats/index.htm> or you can find a link on the Department's home page.
- In addition to the Vital Statistics portal there is the Behavioral Risk Surveillance System (BRFSS) portal that presents both 2011 and 2012 BRFSS for the county. The BRFSS data from 2005 through 2010 BRFSS are also there, but presented separately. Remember, 2011 and later BRFSS should not be compared to BRFSS data from 2010 and prior years due to a change in methodology and the addition of cell phones to the survey samples for 2011 and 2012.

While the 2012 Nebraska and U.S. BRFSS are now available on the CDC website there are some questions that were on the 2011 survey and not on 2012 survey and vice versa. I will display a comparison table for 2012 local, state and national BRFSS data in future reports along with some 2011 to 2012 comparisons even though two data points do not produce a trend. In the meantime, the following table shows the 2011 Lancaster County BRFSS survey results in comparison to Nebraska and national results. You will notice that some of the Lancaster County data are shaded. The shaded results represent local values that are statistically better or worse than the Nebraska results. (There are also some noticeable differences between Lancaster County and U.S. results, but we do not indicate any statistical significance between local and national data.) As can be seen, one area that the Lancaster County results are statistically better than the Nebraska results is in the several measures of physical activity. Also, perhaps due to our more active population—that is not ascertainable, the 2011 local rates of obesity, persons with good or excellent health and the prevalence of three health conditions (arthritis, heart disease and diabetes) are statistically significantly better than the Nebraska results.

<b>BRFSS Results (%)</b>	<b>Lancaster County</b>	<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>U.S.</b>
<b>Health Status/Access to Care</b>			
Health status fair or poor	11.4	14.3	16.9
Limited in any activities for physical, mental/emotional reasons	18.7	21.7	24.3
No health coverage, 18 to 64 year olds	18.3	19.2	21.3
<b>Health Conditions</b>			
Either overweight or obese (BMI = 25 or greater)	59.2	64.9	63.0
Overweight (BMI = 25 to 29.9)	34.2	36.5	35.7
Obese (BMI = 30 or greater)	25.0	28.4	27.3
Ever had a heart attack	3.0	4.3	4.4
Ever had angina or coronary heart disease	3.3	3.9	4.1
Ever had a stroke	2.4	2.6	2.9
Ever been told they have asthma	13.4	11.5	13.6
Currently have asthma	8.9	7.3	9.1
Told they have arthritis	19.5	23.4	24.4
Told they have diabetes	6.8	8.4	9.5
Told they have high blood pressure	23.4	28.6	30.6
Ever told they have skin cancer	5.2	5.6	5.8
Ever told they have other types of cancer	6.2	6.6	6.6
Ever told they have COPD	4.0	5.0	6.1
Ever told they have kidney disease	1.9	2.2	2.4
Ever told they have vision impairment	20.4	21.4	18.6
Ever told they have a form of depression	18.0	16.9	17.5
Told their cholesterol is high	37.4	38.3	38.4
<b>Risky Behaviors</b>			
Binge drinking (five or more drinks at one setting)	25.7	22.7	18.3
Current smoker	21.6	20.0	21.2
<b>Physical Activity Level</b>			
Participated in 150 or more minutes of aerobic activity a week	52.2	49.0	51.7
Participated with strengthening exercise twice a week	33.4	28.1	29.6
Meeting both aerobic and strengthening guidelines	22.6	19.0	21.0
Any form of exercise during the past month	79.1	73.7	73.8
<b>Preventive Measures</b>			
Always wear seatbelts	90.6	87.1	93.3
Persons 65+ who got a flu shot	65.1	61.8	61.3
Persons 65+ who got a pneumonia shot	74.5	70.3	70.0
Checked cholesterol	69.5	71.8	75.5

## **HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH**

### **HPO Chronic Disease Prevention & Minority Health**

- November is National Diabetes Awareness Month --- the Action *Now!* Coalition has put together a November calendar with active links to websites for helpful information on diabetes, prevention, management, stress, sleep, recipes, and more. A promotional sheet with information about the Living Well Program and Body Works upcoming workshops and contact information will be attached.
- On September 30, Lincoln finished the Second Annual National Bike Challenge in first place among cities with populations of 200,000 and more. Last year, Lincoln was third in the nation. Nebraska moved up one spot in the Challenge among states, improving from third in 2012 to second this year. UNL was third in the nation among colleges/universities/schools as was Cycle Works among bike shops. Randy Reed of Lincoln finished fourth out of more than 34,000 riders accumulating more than 11,000 miles of bicycle riding from May 1 through September 30. Media picked up the story, and interviews were done with Channels 8 and 11 in Lincoln, and articles ran in the Lincoln Journal Star and the Omaha World Herald. Lincoln had more than 1,100 riders who accumulated well over 610,000 miles on their bikes this summer. Over 100 people were recognized for their efforts at a celebration on October 14.
- Staff assisted with a bike rodeo and provided information on bicycle education to participants of all ages at the third annual “Streets Alive” event on September 29. Staff from the Early Development Network Services Coordination Program, the Tobacco Prevention Program, and the Living Well Chronic Disease Management Program also participated in Streets Alive and provided health information to hundreds of community participants.

### **HPO Injury Prevention**

- Safe Kids Lincoln Lancaster County observed International Walk to School Day by conducting activities at Randolph Elementary School on October 8<sup>th</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup>. 470 K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in four interactive, educational stations teaching crosswalk safety skills, and emphasizing the need for physical activity. An all school assembly occurred on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> to reinforce the need for students to practice the safety behaviors they learned on Tuesday. Fed Ex is the national sponsor for International Walk to School Day and provided a truck and a driver so that children can experience sitting in the driver’s seat and seeing first-hand how difficult it can be to see a small child if the child is not practicing safe street crossing procedures.
- Staff promoted the NE Safe Kids Childcare Transportation Training to over 70 child care directors in the LLCHD Training Center, and used the opportunity to promote registering

for a training date. Staff conducted two NE Safe Kids Child Care Transportation Trainings in September with a total of 31 child care workers attending.

## **INFORMATION & FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

- City HIPAA Risk Analysis and Management Team met and approved the updated policies and procedures. Training for Health Department employees is scheduled for December 4, 2013.
- The Division Manager participated in the strategic planning activities for eBHIN (electronic behavioral health information network)
- Fiscal staff completed closing out fiscal year 2013 and setting up reports for FY 2014.
- Information Management staff continue to work on establishing electronic billing with Medicaid for both Dental and the Public Health Clinic.