

DEPARTMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY, 2014

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

- The Department's FY2014-2016 budget request was submitted to the City Finance Department on February 27, 2014. Staff will meet with the City Finance Department on March 25th to review the request.
- Welcome to Lt. Col. Craig Strong. Lt. Col. Strong was nominated by Mayor Beutler to serve on the Board of Health. His appointment was approved by the Lincoln City Council and Lancaster County Board of Commissioners. The Health Director provided orientation and a tour of the Department.
- Board of Health President Heidi Stark, Mike Tavlin, the Health Director and Division Managers toured the Susan Buffet Educare Center on February 27th. Educare staff Austen Huigens and Kandra King provided orientation and a tour of the facility.
- The Health Director continues to meet with the Mayor's Legislative Review Team and other local health officials regarding legislation.
- Employee of the Month – Amity Kuzelka – Health Promotion & Outreach Division

ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control Stats

	Sep 11- Jan 12	Sep 12- Jan 13	Sep 13- Jan 14
Pet Licenses Sold	25043	25527	25937
Cases Dispatched	8909	9785	9654
Investigation	9678	10405	10298
Animals Impounded			
Dogs	642	593	663
Cats	665	476	558
Court Citations Issued	94	149	150
Warnings/Defects Issued	5003	6814	7173
Bite Cases Reported	182	185	172
Attack Cases Reported	16	20	13

Dogs Declared (PPD, DD,V)	31	38	33
Animal Neglect Investigations	207	271	249
Injured Animal Rescue	300	255	258
Wildlife Removal	150	152	147
Dead Animal Pickup	905	741	647
Lost and Found Reports	918	1000	818
Phone Calls	18200	20128	17656
Average Response Time (in mins)	19	15	20

- Animal Control staffed a booth at the Dog Expo at the Lancaster County Event Center. Pet licensing and other educational events and information were available to the attendees. Over 70 vendors and approximately 2500 people attended the Saturday and Sunday event. The next event that Animal Control will participate in will be the Tails and Trails event sponsored by the Capital Humane Society on May 17th.
- Pet license sales have remained steady, with a slight increase for the first 5 months of FY 2013-2014. New educational messages will start this spring including the importance of vaccinating your pets for rabies. Impounds were up slightly and this may be due to some of the extremely cold weather the past couple of months.
- Staff from Capital Humane Society, Lancaster County Emergency Management and the Health Department met on February 19th for a half work session on the Animal Control Emergency Management Plan. A second follow up meeting was held on February 25th and work has started on the continuity of operations plan and capacity assessment and resource assessment and management. Work sessions will continue through March and April. The goal is to have a nearly complete plan this spring.
- The Animal Control Manager has prepared highlights for the Department Annual Meeting.
- Officers are working on license defect follow ups and have been processing approximately 75-100 per week. Warnings and defects are up for the five months of FY 2013-2014. Citations have remained level when compared to the same time period one year ago.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Healthy Families America Accreditation

- Maternal-Child Health Services staff and our community partner, CEDARS Youth Services, are working toward accreditation with Healthy Families America (HFA) – the national, evidence-based model of home visitation we utilize to lower the risk for child maltreatment and to support good pregnancy, postpartum, and child health outcomes.

MCH has been working hard to clarify HFA standards for accreditation which were not aligned with HIPAA. LLCHD's CHS Division incorporated HIPAA standards in December of 2013. This month the MCH Program Manager received approval for our HIPAA processes from the National Director of Quality Assurance and Accreditation for HFA.

MCH Cultural Sensitivity & Competency Review

- Two UNMC College of Nursing students gathered input through a formal satisfaction survey of HFA families, asking 31 questions regarding satisfaction with services and cultural competency of staff. Of the 213 families served in the time period studied, 97 completed the telephone survey (46% of families served). Findings included:
 - 94% of families said that their home visitor “always” listened and understood them.
 - 93% of families said that their home visitor was interested in learning about their family’s culture, made efforts to understand their race and culture, respected their parenting style, choices and religious beliefs.
 - 87% of families said that their home visitor “always” recognized family strengths and accomplishments.
 - 83.5% of families rated MCH services as “excellent”, said their home visitor helped their family “a great deal”, and said that their home visitor “always” established family goals relevant to strengths and needs.
 - Areas families identified as improving since home visitation began included: controlling my temper, knowledge related to child abuse/neglect, patience with my child’s behavior, coping with problems/stress, knowledge of parenting and child development and knowledge related to the health of my child.

Health Insurance Marketplace

- The CHS Division is partnering with People’s Health Center, DHHS/Division of Medicaid, AARP, Nebraska Appleseed, and the Center for People in Need to help the uninsured learn more about their health insurance options and/or enroll in the federal Health Insurance Marketplace, NE Medicaid, or other options such as General Assistance or Health 360. Appointments are available every Tuesday in February and March at the Center for People in Need just before their largest food distribution event. The last day within the open enrollment period for the Health Insurance Marketplace is March 31, 2014. So far, 65 poor and uninsured adults have been assisted in learning more about their health insurance/health care options and applying for health insurance. Interpretation in Spanish, Vietnamese and Arabic was provided.

- The CHS Division Manager presented information about local options for health insurance or health care for the poor and uninsured at the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) conference and at Lincoln's Homeless Coalition this month. Options include the Marketplace, NE Medicaid, General Assistance, People's Health Center, Health 360, Clinic with a Heart and People's City Mission Medical Clinic. Approximately 150 people, mainly case managers working directly with those at risk for homelessness, were in attendance.

Diabetes Supports For the Poor & Uninsured

- CHS staff and community partner agencies (Bryan Health, CenterPointe, Clinic with a Heart, Lancaster County General Assistance, Lancaster County Medical Society, Lincoln ED Connections, Nebraska Urban Indian Center, & Saint Elizabeth's Regional Medical Center) are working with Eli Lilly drug reps to provide free insulin (Humalog) for specific eligible clients: those without prescription drug coverage and a current prescription. Not having the ability to pay for insulin is a major barrier for the patients served in this partnership.
- LLCHD's Diabetes Case Manager and the Division Manager are working with Clinic with a Heart staff and volunteers to meet the need of adults with diabetes who are uninsured and do not have a medical home who utilize Clinic with a Heart. The goal is to modify risk to the patient at the lowest cost in an interim period while the patient is being connected to a medical home.
- This month the Diabetes Case Manager and the division manager presented to care managers at both Bryan Health hospital campuses to discuss the free/reduced cost glucometer strip program and appropriate patients to refer to LLCHD's diabetes case management. Diabetes is a common diagnosis at discharge and we hope to intervene with those who are "self pay" admissions (uninsured) and who have barriers to care (no way to monitor their glucose level, no pay source for insulin, no established relationship with a health care provider, no knowledge of diabetes self-management, etc.).
- The Diabetes Case Manager has been able to obtain expedited appointments at People's Health Center for those with insulin needs who were not previously established patients. She has connected patients to vision care, a diabetes foot clinic, free glucometer strips to monitor blood glucose and needed insulin, and free/low cost medications. Patients have also received medication reconciliation services from Creighton University's School of Pharmacy students and faculty. Dangerous drug interactions have been rectified and patients have gained a better understanding of the medicines they are taking.

DENTAL HEALTH & NUTRITION

WIC

Caseload (Participation): (301 report)

Total	3448
Main	2537
LMEP	220
Cornhusker Clinic	691

Food: For August 2013 -

Food Monthly Obligations	\$ 229,744.70
Food Pkg Avg.	\$ 67.49
Women	\$ 41.52
Infants	\$ 144.72
Children	\$ 44.57

Mentoring:

(Number and school)

Students	4 UNMC RN students
Interns	1 RD intern
Volunteers	2
LMEP Residents	3

Dental Health

- During the month of January, dental staff provided dental care for 589 clients with 947 patient visits. Of those clients served, 57% were children; 66% were of racial and ethnic minorities (includes non-English speaking Russian, French, Karen, Kurdish, Arabic); 55% were enrolled in Medicaid; 32% fell at or below 100% of poverty, receiving services at the minimum fee for service; 2% were enrolled in General Assistance, receiving services at no fee; and 10% fell in the range of 101%-200% of poverty, receiving services on a sliding fee scale.
- Community outreach included presentations for Center Pointe clients and for dental hygiene students at the UNMC College of Dentistry. Our dental clinic serves as a rotation site for UNMC dental and dental hygiene students and Southeast Community College dental assisting students.
- The Dental Clinic provided transportation and dental care for 11 Clinton Elementary School children. Staff work collaboratively with school nurses to identify children unable

to access services and obtain parental consent to transport and treat children with urgent dental care needs within high need area school.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Program Area: Waste Management

Specific Program: Household Hazardous Materials & Waste Management Program (HHW)

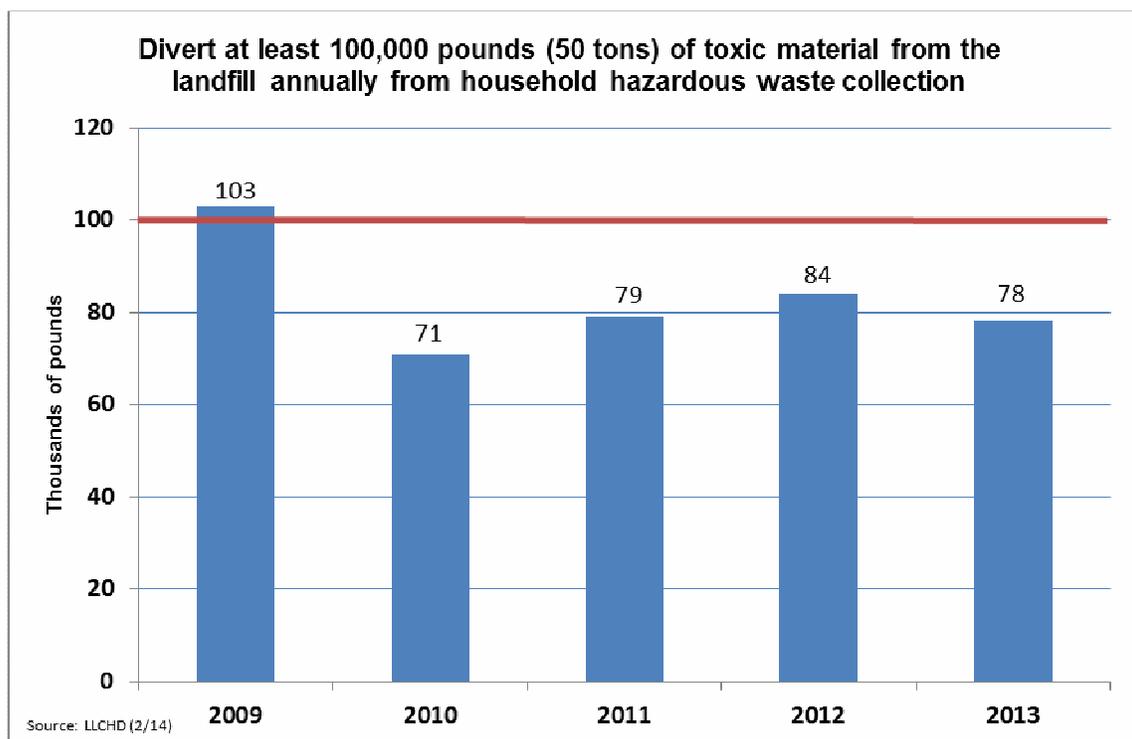
Waste Management Program Goals

- Protect human health and the environment by: reducing exposures to hazardous materials; assuring proper management and disposal of special wastes; preventing hazardous waste from being illegally disposed of in the Bluff Road Landfill; reducing litter; and preventing illness and disease caused by improper waste management.

Methods/Strategies

- Provide 6 to 8 mobile HHW collections in Lincoln and Lancaster County
- Promote collections via community partners, print material, radio, signage, and media releases
- Educate the community about risks and change behavior on: choosing least toxic alternatives and using, reusing or recycling materials
- Collaborate with private and public partners to increase efficiency and effectiveness

Indicator:



Funding/Source: Waste Hauler Occupation Tax; Grants in Aid; SEPs

Comparison:

	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13
Hazardous Waste (lbs)	103,015	71,09	78,67	84,27	78,50
	*	5	9	6	6
Participants	2,325	2,287	2,522	2,519	2113

* SEP funding was used in FY09 to increase the number of collections.

Description

- EPH Waste Section staff have been coordinating Household Hazardous Waste Collection events for Lincoln and Lancaster County residents for 29 years. These mobile collections provide residents an opportunity to reduce environmental health hazards and risk in their homes by removing the hazardous waste such as pesticides, solvents, oil-based paint, mercury-containing items, and other dangerous household products. The long-term impact of ongoing public education/behavior change strategies is less hazardous waste being generated and proper reuse, recycling and disposal of hazardous waste. Combined, these efforts reduce the amount of hazardous waste disposed in our landfill and protect our stormwater system and streams from contamination. The HHW Program is cited as one of the best management practices in the City of Lincoln’s Stormwater permit. Two appointment only collections were held at the N 48th St. landfill site. In FY13, the HHW program required 2.15 FTE and direct program costs were \$239,110 and total costs were \$310,188.
- In November 2013, the Solid Waste Plan 2040 (SWP2040) Advisory Committee’s final recommendations included that the toxics reduction program be expanded and a place to provide year round access to hazardous waste disposal be provided to the community, which could potentially include a “reuse center”. Such a facility would decrease risk to health and the environment and increase the availability and convenience of hazardous waste disposal for the public. Staff wrote and submitted a grant to the Nebraska Environmental Trust (see below), which will help achieve this goal.



Nebraska Environmental Trust Grant \$159,265.00

Community-Driven Toxics Reduction: A Plan for Education & Year Round Access to Safe Disposal

Develop year-round access to hazardous waste disposal for the residents of Lincoln and Lancaster County and small businesses/agencies that are exempt from State and Federal regulations on hazardous waste.

1. **Facility Site Analysis:** The site analysis would evaluate the City of Lincoln's North 48th Street Transfer Station as a location for a year-round hazardous waste facility. The analysis would include the assembly of a Facility Siting Analysis Task Force in addition to the hiring of a consultant to oversee the process.

2. **Community Engagement & Education:** The community engagement process will create dialogue on expanding toxics reduction education strategies and on the operation of a hazardous waste collection facility through deliberative discussions, focus groups, information seminars and presentations, community conversations, and possibly surveys.

Partnerships & Efficiencies

- Mobile HHW collections are efficient and cost-effective in providing convenient public access to dispose of hazardous waste, but there is a clear need for an facility that will provide year round access to hazardous waste disposal for both households and small businesses. Community and corporate partners continue to be a cornerstone to success. In 2013 corporate partners included Pfizer Inc., Lincoln Industries, Veyance Technologies, Union College, and Walmart, who contributed staffing, food, promotion and event sites. Additional volunteers assist with the unloading of the waste, education of participants, and traffic control. Only hazardous waste is accepted, reducing costs and increasing efficiency. Wastes which can be reused, recycled, or managed by local businesses, such as unwanted medications, oil, lead acid batteries, button batteries, and antifreeze are not accepted at collections. Staff work with local businesses to help ensure that these items be used, reused, recycled or disposed of properly. Current strategies for non-hazardous latex paint target changing behavior at point of purchase and promoting latex paint exchanges coordinated by EcoStores Nebraska.



EPH also partners with the Aging Partners' Home Handymen Program to offer the "Safe Homes for Seniors service". This free HHW service helps older adult who cannot participate in a typical mobile HHW collection. From corrosive drain cleaners to toxic pesticides, elderly clients often have a lifetime's accumulation of dangerous chemicals. Trained handymen provide assessment, organization, and possible removal of hazardous products. Health-impaired older adults are at greater health risk from exposure to hazardous chemicals.

HEALTH DATA & EVALUATION

- All of the tabletop exercises with emergency managers and hospitals in each of the four public health districts (LLCHD, Southeast Nebraska, Four Corners and Public Health Solutions) in Southeast Nebraska have been conducted successfully. (Since there is no hospital in Cass County, while the Sarpy/Cass Health Department participated in another role, there was no exercise in their district.) Randy Fischer, one of our newer staff members with a background in training and exercising, worked with Lancaster County Emergency Management, regional emergency managers and the hospital to help plan for and coordinate the required exercise needs of the Department and our many community and regional partners. The scenario for both tabletop and full-scale exercises is a mass casualty event related to winter weather conditions, which is quite plausible given the recent weather events in Nebraska. The After Action Reports (AARs) have been drafted and most are ready to be completed after discussion with participants.
- The next step is a follow-up full-scale exercise in each district with the first to be held in Lancaster County on March 19th. The other full-scale exercises will be held in April with all hospitals in the region playing at their own location to encourage involvement by many of the hospitals' staff. These exercises meet a number of grant and regulatory requirements for all community partners engaged in emergency preparedness. As I said, all four tabletop exercises involved a large number of participants (39 to 83 was the range in each health district) and have received high marks from participating agencies and we hope that the full-scale exercises will test each agency's plans and point out areas of improvement to be worked on in future planning.
- With the closeout of the 2001 fiscal year (FY) MMRS (Metropolitan Medical Response

System) grant that ended on January 31st, the Department will no longer will be involved as the lead agency and fiscal intermediary for future MMRS grants. Lancaster County Emergency Management is now and will be in future years in charge of MMRS meetings and associated activities although the LLCHD divisions, especially Environmental Public Health, will be an active member of the MMRS planning efforts.

- As a little history, from 2002 until 2014 (FY 2011 appropriations) the Health Department received MMRS funds on behalf of the City for the Lincoln Metropolitan Medical Response System (LMMRS) as one of 124 jurisdictions with direct appropriations to plan and prepare as a community for a host of potential disasters and emergencies (starting with events caused by weapons of mass destruction, but morphing into addressing all-hazard emergencies over time). The MMRS program continues, but must compete for funds with other programs funded by the Department of Homeland Security as there is no longer a direct allocation to any of the 124 MMRS jurisdictions. The MMRS grant has been a challenge to administer at times, but the program has helped to form partnerships of and networking by response entities and health providers, hospitals and public health and improved the level of preparedness both in Lincoln and throughout Southeast Nebraska. In addition, the MMRS grant was used over the years to fund and enhance necessary equipment purchases (e.g., personal protective equipment, radio and communication equipment, evacuation chairs and sleds, cots and other supplies for shelters, equipment to deal with bariatric patients and individuals with functional needs, lights and generators, radiation detectors, trailers, decontamination tents and medical supplies for triage, etc.). In addition other resources (e.g., such as pharmaceutical caches and materiel needed to set up mass clinics) were acquired to be ready for potential outbreaks in the community and region. So in that sense we are better prepared than before the program to address any natural disasters and events that may arise.
- The BRFSS dashboard has been enhanced by including state and national comparison data for 2011 and 2012 BRFSS indicators and the information is presented by age, sex, race and income--see <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/data/brfss/index.htm>.

HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH

Chronic Disease Prevention and Minority Health

- Staff continues to provide guidance to the efforts of the Lancaster Crusade Against Cancer Coalition to raise community awareness of the importance of screening for colon cancer. March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month – a national movement to increase awareness and education about colorectal cancer and to spread the message that colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable. Colorectal cancer is one of only a few cancers that can be prevented through the use of screening tests, yet colorectal cancer remains the second most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women in

Nebraska and Lancaster County. The Coalition has launched a media campaign that runs from late February through early April and includes newspaper ads and inserts, television including 10Health and the Channel 8 Midday Forum, L Magazine, and through worksites. The campaign targets people 50 years and older and those under 50 with a family history of colorectal cancer. Free testing kits are available at more than thirty pharmacies throughout Lincoln and in Waverly. For more information on colon cancer screening and where kits are available, visit: www.LancasterCrusade.org .

Media

- Channel 8 Midday Forum on Heart Health –“Don’t Hibernate Your Heart Over the Winter Months”; Channel 8 Midday Forum on Maintaining New Year’s Resolutions – “Plan Ahead and Make the Healthy Choice the Easy Choice”

Injury Prevention

- Staff conducted 1 of 2 home safety presentations to 35 outreach workers of Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders County Early Head Start Program. These presentations are provided by the Home Safety Task Force of the Safe Kids Lincoln Lancaster County Coalition and are intended to give the outreach workers information as well as safety devices to use when doing home visits. In this first presentation, Willa Tharnish, LLCHD Coordinator of the Nebraska Meds Project, and Loreen Bartos, Extension Educator, provided the outreach workers with information on proper disposal of medications and on poison identification. The next presentation will include information on prevention of choking, burns/scalds, and falls. The outreach workers will do a home safety assessment, provide appropriate education, and provide necessary safety devices. These devices include small parts testers (to identify choking hazards), smoke detectors, stove dial covers, outlet covers, cabinet locks, and baby gates. The funds for these devices were received from the NDHHS Injury Prevention Program.
- Staff arranged for the Lancaster Medical Society to distribute 500 small parts testers and Baby Lane choking prevention information cards to office Managers of family practice, pediatric and OB/gynecological clinics. The small parts testers will be placed in the New Parent Packets for expectant parents.
- Safe Kids Lincoln-Lancaster County was a primary partner at the Lincoln Children’s Museum first annual Safe Kids Smart Kids event. Water Safety, Child Passenger Safety, Sports Injury Prevention, Fire and Burn Prevention, and Bike/Pedestrian Safety Task Forces participated. 563 children and parents attended the event.

INFORMATION & FISCAL MANAGEMENT

- FY 2015 and FY 2016 Health Department budget was completed and submitted to the

City Budget Office on February 28, 2014 (one week early)

- Staff are working to implement electronic billing for immunizations to Share Advantage, the Medicaid Managed Care Plan provided by United Health Care. The contract enabling the payments was approved this month.
- Work has started on planning to move from our existing Novell file server to a new server with Windows operating system. This is part of a multi-year, city-wide migration.