

# DEPARTMENT REPORT

## MARCH, 2014

### DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

- The Health Director and Division Managers will meet with the City Finance Department's Budget Directors to review the Department's FY 2014-2015 budget request on April 1, 2014.
- Plans are underway for the Board of Health Annual Luncheon and Awards Ceremony. The Luncheon and Awards Ceremony will be held on April 24, 2014 at the Bryan Health East Conference Center.
- The Health Director continues to oversee legislative activities for the Department. The Friends of Public Health hosted a legislative breakfast on March 4, 2014. The 60 day session is scheduled to end by the middle of April.
- The Health Director continues to serve on the Community Health Endowment Board of Trustees and Funding Committee. The Funding Committee will begin their first review of grant applications for the Stage II Funding.
- Staff participated in a City-wide Mass Casualty Incident Exercise on March 19, 2014. The exercise involved representatives from area hospitals, Lincoln Fire & Rescue personnel and local emergency management agencies. A review of the exercise will be provided to the Board of Health at the April meeting.
- The Department prevailed in two District Court cases last month. The Assistant City Attorney continues to represent us well.

### ANIMAL CONTROL

#### Animal Control Stats

	Sep 11- Feb 12	Sep 12- Feb 13	Sep 13- Feb 14
<b>Pet Licenses Sold</b>	30650	30877	31264
<b>Cases Dispatched</b>	10412	11058	10727
<b>Investigation</b>	11258	11803	11533
<b>Animals Impounded</b>			
<b>Dogs</b>	937	851	676
<b>Cats</b>	815	609	580

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<b>Court Citations Issued</b>	104	182	180
<b>Warnings/Defects Issued</b>	6006	6888	7818
<b>Bite Cases Reported</b>	224	214	194
<b>Attack Cases Reported</b>	20	23	14
<b>Dogs Declared (PPD, DD,V)</b>	35	49	39
<b>Animal Neglect Investigations</b>	255	307	300
<b>Injured Animal Rescue</b>	328	275	285
<b>Wildlife Removal</b>	164	170	171
<b>Dead Animal Pickup</b>	999	811	726
<b>Lost and Found Reports</b>	1073	1145	954
<b>Phone Calls</b>	26202	27791	20477
<b>Average Response Time (in mins)</b>	16	21	18

- Animal Control Staff meet with Bob Downey and Dr. Laura Andersen, DVM to discuss footbaths and disease prevention in the shelter and kennel operations. Dr. Andersen has a background in Shelter medicine as part of her academic training. She will be attending the April Animal Control Officer staff meeting to offer some insight as the Capital Humane Society Veterinarian.
- Staff completed a draft of the Animal Control Continuity of Operations Plan for Emergency Management. The American Red Cross, Lancaster County Chapter, local director, Susan Epps and staff from the Capital Humane Society are working on a plan that would describe procedure for sheltering people and their pets in close proximity.
- Warmer weather will mean an increase in the number of calls for Animal Control. We have already had a couple of bat calls and those will continue to increase, peaking in August and September decreasing by October and November.
- Staff continue to work closely with the City Attorney's office on cases that need greater attention and legal guidance. The City Attorney's Office continues to be very helpful in providing guidance on the enforcement of the Lincoln Animal Control Ordinances.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES**

### **Homeless Vaccination**

- LLCHD nurses gave 759 vaccines to homeless and near homeless individuals from October 2013 through February 2014. This represents a 20% increase from last year. Vaccines given included: seasonal flu (574 shots), Tdap (167 shots), and pneumonia (18

shots). Community sites where vaccine was offered this year included: Project Homeless Connect (at Pershing Auditorium), Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach, Center for People in Need, Gathering Place, and at the One80 Church (joint project with UNMC nursing students during a Food Net event). Without this program, this vulnerable population would not be protected.

### **Begin With Books**

- Begin with Books is a joint project of Lincoln City Libraries and LLCHD/Community Health Services Division with funding from the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries, the Dillon Foundation, and LLCHD patient donations. The purpose of the project is to enhance early childhood literacy among poor and underserved families. The project will be piloted among pregnant and parenting families served by the Maternal-Child Health Services/Healthy Families America Program and the Immunization Clinic. Over 3,000 books were purchased and will be distributed starting April 1. A library card application and age-specific ways to encourage language will be included with each book. Books and materials are available in English and Spanish.
- Research has shown that early language skills predict future reading abilities, and skills not developed early are difficult to remediate later on (I-LABS, University of Washington). The brain prepares itself for speaking and reading by hearing language. This has large implications for children in families where there is little verbal communication and or little child-centered speech. Children living with caregivers who are experiencing depression, constant and significant stress, and violence, for example, have an increased risk for a language-deficient environment. Research also shows that:
  - Very young children learn best from one-on-one interaction.
  - Very young children learn more and pay more attention to a familiar vs. an unfamiliar person.
  - Children learn nothing from recorded media, DVDs and audio before the age of three.
  - Children need a ratio of 5 to 1 positive vs. negative interactions to flourish.

This project is meant to encourage simple ways caregivers can expose their child to language in a child-centered, age-specific way such as:

- Birth to 9 months:
  - Talk to your baby as you go about your daily routines.
  - Make sure you read, sing and talk to your baby when he is awake.
  - Start a habit of visiting your library regularly. Your baby can get a library card right after she is born. Your library has story times especially for babies.
- 9 to 12 months:

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- Ask your child about the pictures in a story.
- Always keep a book in your diaper bag for waiting in doctor’s offices and other places.
- Get your child a few dress-up items like hats, aprons and boots.
- 1 to 2 years:
  - Continue to read aloud to your child every day. He is learning new words rapidly.
  - Choose simple counting books to read aloud.
  - Learn a few finger plays such as Eensy-Weensy Spider to play with your child.
- 2 to 3 years:
  - Borrow alphabet books from the library and practice singing the alphabet song.
  - Have your child “pretend” to read her favorite book to you.
  - Make sure your child has plenty of toys for imaginative play such as blocks, dress-up clothes and books.
- 3 to 4 years:
  - Tell your child a story about your childhood.
  - Have your child help with simple meal preparations; peeling an orange or beating an egg.
  - Using flour or sand, have your child make letters with her finger.

## DENTAL HEALTH & NUTRITION

### WIC

#### Caseload (Participation)

<b>Total</b>	3242
<b>Main</b>	2343
<b>LMEP</b>	214
<b>Cornhusker Clinic</b>	685

#### Food: For October 2013

<b>Food Monthly Obligations</b>	\$ 225,506.25
<b>Food Pkg Avg.</b>	\$ 67.80
<b>Women</b>	\$ 41.36
<b>Infants</b>	\$ 144.44
<b>Children</b>	\$ 44.91

#### Mentoring:

(Number and school)

<b>Students</b>	2 UNMC RN students
<b>Interns</b>	2 RD intern

<b>Volunteers</b>	0
<b>LMEP Residents</b>	1

## **Dental Health**

Number of clients served: 497

Number of patient visits: 774

Number of children served: 275 (55%)

Percentage of racial/ethnic minority clients: 56%

Percentage of clients enrolled in Medicaid: 54%

Percentage of clients at 100% of poverty, receiving services at minimum fee: 31%

Percentage of clients enrolled in General Assistance: 3%

Percentage of clients at 101%-200% of poverty, receiving services on fee scale – 12%

### Outreach Activities for February:

- Provided 14 children (Elliott and Clinton Elementary Schools) with 27 patient visits, transportation from school and urgent dental care. These children were identified through the school based screening program in need of urgent care and identified as unable to access a dental home.
- In collaboration with Lincoln Libraries, staff provided presentations at South Library and Bethany Library for a total of 46 participants promoting February Children’s Dental Health Month and the importance of preventive and routine dental care.
- Presentation at Kelly Kids Learning Center for a total of 18 children.
- Presentation at UNL Children’s Center for a total of 72 children.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH**

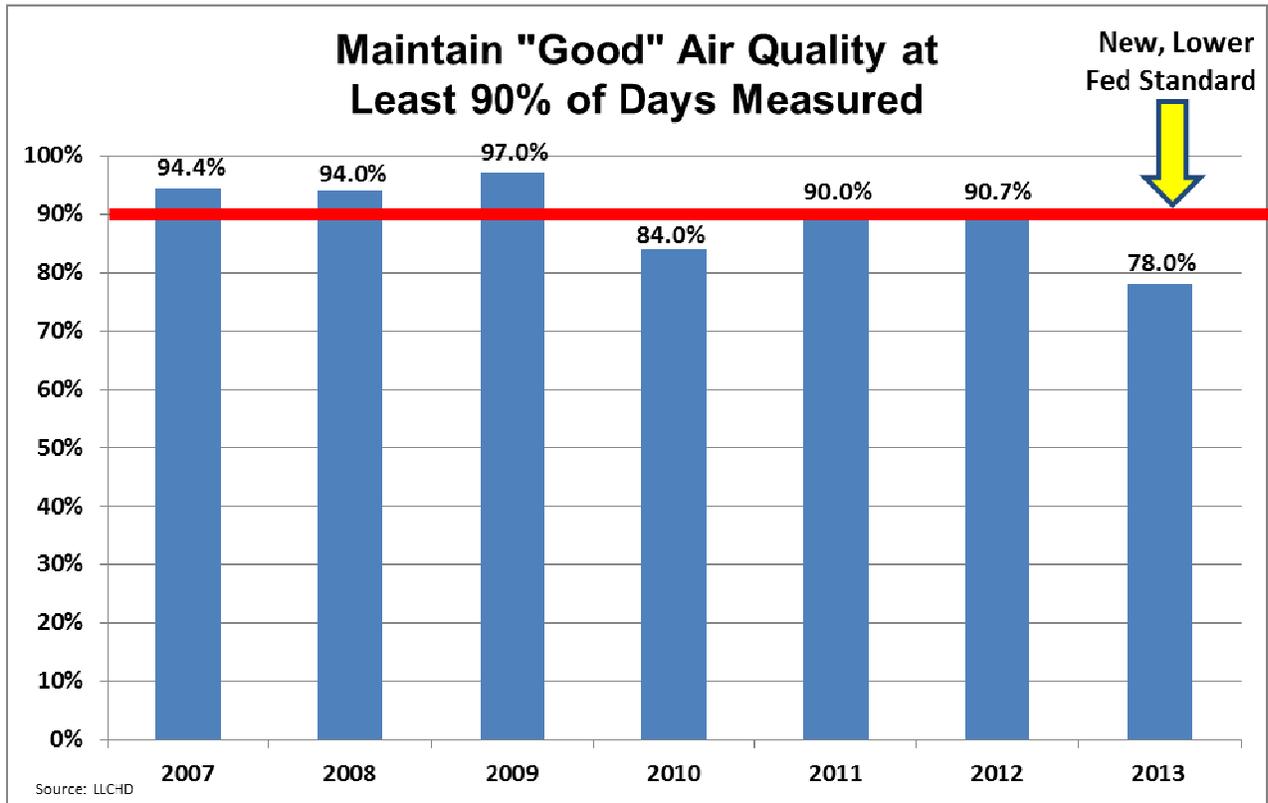
### **Outdoor Air Quality Monitoring**

**Air Quality Goal:** Protect human health by maintaining air quality at levels which do not impact human health and preventing illness and disease caused by poor air quality.

**Methods/Strategies (What we do):** Monitor air for Particulate Matter (PM 2.5), and Ozone (O3).

**Indicator:** Maintain at least 90% of the year as “Good” air quality days.

**Funding/Source:** Air pollution emission fees, user fees and grants fund 100% of the program.



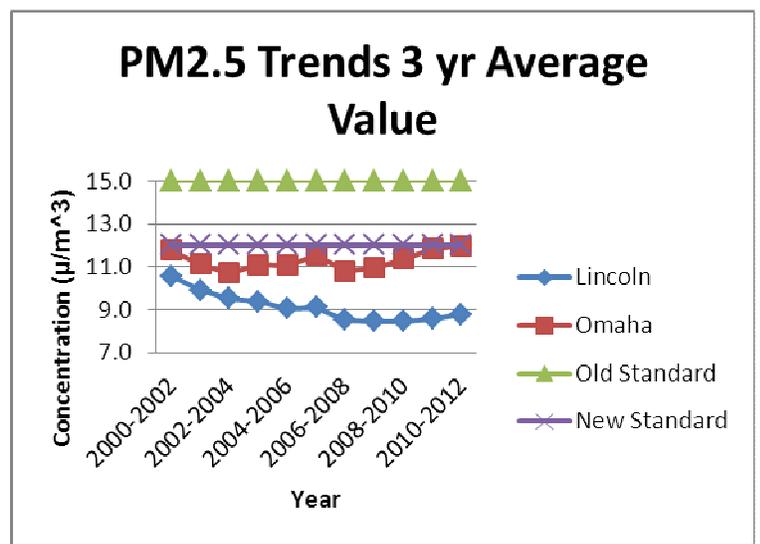
**Description**

The Health Department has been delegated authority by EPA and NDEQ to manage the Title V Operating Permits program and to regulate other sources of air pollution in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Local regulations reflect Federal and State air quality laws. The Air Pollution Control Advisory Board advises Health on all air quality matters.

**Particulate Matter**

Lincoln’s air quality is monitored 24/7 for very small particulate matter, called “PM 2.5.” Higher levels of PM2.5 can trigger heart attacks, asthma attacks and breathing problems for people with COPD. Elevated PM 2.5 levels are the primary reason for poorer air quality days. In March of 2013, the Federal standard for PM2.5 was lowered from 15 ug/m3 to 12 ug/m3 for the annual mean averaged over three years.

As expected, this resulted in Lincoln not being able to meet our goal of 90% of days being “Good” for air quality. In 2013, only 78% of days met the goal of “Good” air quality. However, Lincoln is not in jeopardy of being out of compliance



with the Federal Standard at this time (see PM2.5 Trends 3yr Average Value chart). And the majority of days that were poorer air quality were in the “moderate” category, which does not pose significant health risks.

### Ozone

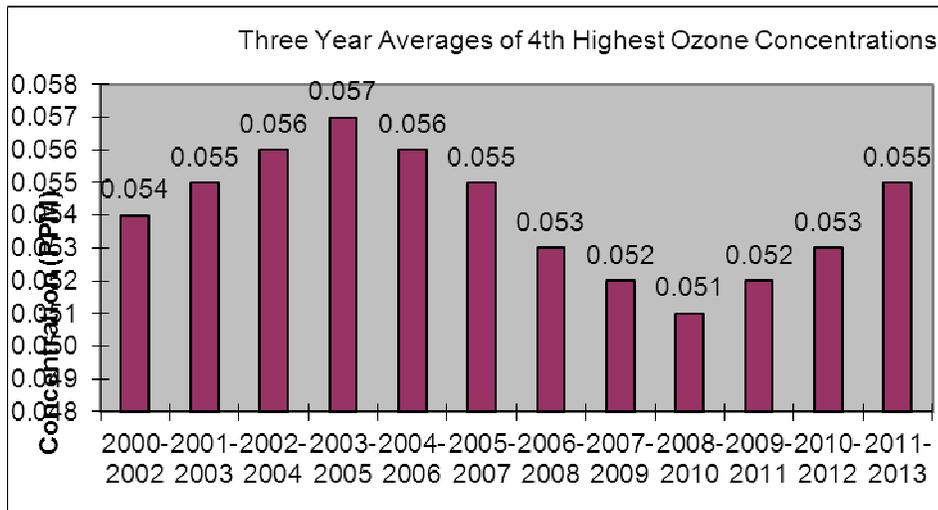


Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) is monitored in warm weather months. Higher levels of Ozone are associated with aggravation of COPD, asthma, and irritation of the lungs. Lincoln has maintained Federal “attainment” status for air quality for over a decade. With regard to Ozone, Lincoln had 100% of days in the “Good” air quality category.

However, we are seeing some increase in average Ozone levels, which again may be related to increases in vehicle miles driven. Maintaining attainment status assures health risks are kept low

and prevents onerous Federal air quality requirements which could dampen economic development. New Ozone monitoring equipment was purchased this winter and will be deployed this spring.

### Lincoln Recognized for Clean Air



Lincoln was once again recognized by the American Lung Association in their *Clear the Air* report for being one of the cleanest cities for Ozone in the nation. LLCHD’s Air Quality Program monitors ozone from April 1 through October 31. Ozone forms when the sun interacts with VOCs (hydrocarbons) and Nitrogen Oxides

(NO<sub>x</sub>), which are emitted from vehicles and industry. NO<sub>x</sub> is also emitted from agricultural field burning. Ozone irritates mucous membranes and impairs lung function, especially impacting people with asthma and COPD. The Federal ozone standard is currently 0.075 parts per million (ppm), but is expected to be lowered, perhaps as low as 0.065 ppm. Our most recent data indicates that Lincoln remains well below National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Newer vehicles with lower pollution emissions and more people commuting by bicycle, bus and walking continue to help keep our air quality good. Most growing communities see increasing levels of ozone primarily due more vehicles and sprawl,

which increases vehicle miles driven. VOCs and NOx emissions from industry have decreased the past ten years.

### **Where there's Smoke there's Particulate Matter**

Smoke from open burning and fires have many toxic components, including extremely small particles (called PM2.5) that embed deep in the lungs. Higher levels of PM2.5 can trigger heart attacks, asthma attacks and breathing problems for people with COPD. While nearby burning in the County does contribute to PM2.5 levels, agricultural burning of over 200,000 acres of grass in the Flint Hills area of Kansas often results in large amounts of smoke coming into Lincoln causing health concerns. Air Quality staff use internet resources to watch and predict smoke impacts from open burning and will issue alerts or Health Advisories if necessary. Another event each year results in very high fine particulate levels – the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Similar Health Advisories are issued regarding the health risks posed by smoke emitted by fireworks. In addition, staff carefully review requests for open burning in the County to protect the public's health.



## **HEALTH DATA & EVALUATION**

- The March 19<sup>th</sup> community-wide full scale exercise went well overall with several lessons learned. The exercise was planned to, among other specifics for a particular agency: test communications between and amongst partner agencies (e.g., 911 and LFR, LFR and the hospitals, the Emergency Operations Center and all community partners involved, etc.), triaging patients at the scene of a crash resulting in mass casualties and also at the receiving hospitals, patient tracking, public information and media messaging and family assistance. In addition, the use of ham radios as a redundant form of communication in the event cell towers are down or overloaded, landlines are down and radios aren't working. Volunteer patients were transported to the Lincoln hospitals with

fictitious names and specific injury information or symptoms to test the hospitals' ability to both treat and take on a surge of patients.

- The exercise was a success and Randy Fischer and the other planners did a great job in preparing for the exercise and we will be sharing the after-action report and improvement plan information with the Board at the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, a similar full-scale exercise will be conducted with all of the hospitals in a 15-county region (not including Lancaster County) with the help of the four local health departments and county emergency managers in the region. Randy Fischer has prepared all of the exercise plans, modified the scenarios for each local health department jurisdiction and the communities in each district. An update will be provided in May.
- The HDE Public Health Epidemiologist, Raju Kakarlapudi, and Assistant Public Health Epidemiologist, Tommy George, provided the statistical analysis and format for the newest version of the Food Inspection portal that Environmental Public Health will be announcing after the Food Advisory Committee meets to discuss the plans for rollout. Raju is also working with all of the City agencies for their March 31<sup>st</sup> update to the Mayor's Taking Charge charts and graphs.

## **HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH**

### **Tobacco Prevention**

- Collaborative efforts continue with the Community Asthma Education Initiative (CAEI – a funded partner of the School/Community Tobacco Prevention Grant) to train staff from other agencies in asthma management with tobacco being a major trigger. Nineteen F Street Recreation Center staff were trained by Nan Nathanson from CAEI to identify asthma triggers within buildings and to recognize symptoms of asthma attacks among children and adults. Prior to the training a staff member of CAEI did an assessment of the building to locate possible asthma triggers. The staff indicated that as a result of this training, they will be talking with the families of children with asthma who attend the F Street Recreation Center regarding the development of Asthma Action plans. A similar training was done for staff at the Boys and Girls Club. A supervisor of Boys and Girls Club reported, “the training provided valuable insight to our staff when dealing with Club members and family members with asthma and asthma-like symptoms. Staff left the training with a better understanding of how to spot potential issues as well as tips on how to prevent them.”
- Staff coordinated tobacco retailer compliance checks in February and March with the Lincoln Police Department and youth volunteers. In February, there were 6 sales out of 41 attempts to purchase resulting in 15% non-compliance. In March, 2 sales were made out of 44 attempts to purchase for 4.5% non-compliance. As a reminder, the goal is to maintain a rate of non-compliance below 10% with the ultimate goal being zero sales.

According to the CDC, having a non-compliance rate of less than 10% is a deterrent to youth tobacco use.

### **Injury Prevention**

- Staff assisted the Little Kingdom Childcare Center with the selection of National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration (NHTSA) approved car seats to purchase for their three 15 passenger vans. The Center determined the need to replace car seats after attending the Child Care Transportation Training provided by LLCHD Injury Prevention staff and trained technicians that assist with the Child Passenger Safety Task Force.

### **Early Development Network Services Coordination**

- This program provides services coordination to families of eligible children (birth to 3 years) with disabilities. The focus of the program is to identify and meet child/family needs through the coordination of informal and formal supports. Lincoln Public Schools is the primary partner in this program. The program is designed to assist families to access and maintain necessary services for themselves and their children. A tool used in Lincoln to assess the child/family needs is called the Routines Based Interview/Assessment (RBI). Two LLCHD Services Coordinators have received certification in the RBI and are working in partnership with LPS to enhance LPS home-base staff and the other Services Coordinators' skills in effectively conducting the RBI to provide the greatest benefit to the child/family. During the months of January, February, and March, approximately 25 LPS and LLCHD staff are participating in an in-depth 3 part RBI training.

## **INFORMATION & FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

- Division Manager and Fiscal Supervisor are preparing for budget meetings with the City Finance Director and Budget Analyst and for the meeting with the Mayor and his staff. These meetings are scheduled in the first half of April.
- Beginning work on updating the Department's Information Technology Strategic Guidelines and Plan.
- Division Manager and Fiscal Supervisor have scheduled and prepared for Fiscal Review meetings with the management staff in each division. These meetings will be completed by the end of March. In the meetings, we review the first five months of activity this year, analyze the financial status based on budget, identify any issues for monitoring. The reviews cover all funds and programs for each division.

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