

DEPARTMENT REPORT

APRIL, 2014

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

- The Board of Health Annual Luncheon and Awards Ceremony was held on April 24, 2014 at the Bryan Health Conference Center. Award winners include:

Community Public Health Awards - 1) Damon Hershey, 2) Health 360, and 3) Joe Skare

John J. Hanigan Award – Kay Anderson, MD, FAAP, IBCLC

Food Sanitation Excellence Awards – 1) Ming's House, and 2) The Oven

Public Health Leadership Award – Lori Seibel

Carole Douglas Public Health Achievement Award – Brenda Christie
- The Health Director and Information & Fiscal Management Division Manager met with Mayor Beutler and staff regarding the Department's FY2015-2017 budget request.
- Lincoln Police Department Officers Shane Winterbauer and Mario Robinson provided training for all Health Department staff regarding what to expect and ideas of what to do if we encounter an active shooter.
- The Health Director and Division Managers attended the Tabitha Foundation Appreciation Luncheon. The Health Director serves on the Tabitha Foundation Board of Directors.
- The Health Director and HPO Manager attended the Clinic With a Heart Recognition. The Health Department was recognized for their collaboration and partnership with Clinic With A Heart and other agencies in the community.
- The Health Director and Administrative Aide attended The United Way Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony. The City of Lincoln employees were recognized as a Top Ten United Way/Community Health Charities Supporter. City Council Chairman, Carl Eskridge, accepted the award for the City of Lincoln.
- Health Department professional staff hosted a potluck luncheon for the Department's support staff for Administrative Professionals Day.
- Employee of the Month – Deb Edelmaier – Health Promotion & Outreach Division.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control Stats

	Sep 11- Mar 12	Sep 12- Mar 13	Sep 13- Mar 14
Pet Licenses Sold	36660	36892	37320
Cases Dispatched Investigation	12436	12900	13063
	13458	13789	14088
Animals Impounded			
Dogs	937	851	802
Cats	815	609	692
Court Citations Issued	128	197	213
Warnings/Defects Issued	7009	8848	9366
Bite Cases Reported	268	247	228
Attack Cases Reported	27	26	22
Dogs Declared (PPD, DD,V)	44	57	45
Animal Neglect Investigations	303	341	340
Injured Animal Rescue	393	306	337
Wildlife Removal	192	187	198
Dead Animal Pickup	1203	944	848
Lost and Found Reports	1284	1327	1141
Phone Calls	26202	27791	24208
Average Response Time (in mins)	22	18	17

- Animal Control Staff will meet with staff from Lincoln Parks and Recreation to gather information regarding future plans for Bark Parks here in Lincoln. Lincoln currently has two dog runs, one near Holmes Lake and another near Oak Lake.
- The Tails and Trails event will be held May 17th at Fallbrook. Animal Control Staff will staff a booth providing educational materials and promoting pet license sales, license renewals and vaccinations for pets. Tails and Trails is an annual event and Animal Control has participated in several years.
- Two Animal Control Officers will be attend a week long training as part of their end of probation period with Animal Control. The training is sponsored by the National Animal

Control Association and provides valuable field training on most all situations an officer faces in their job.

- A UNL Oshcer Lifelong Learning Institute class was held at the Health Department on May 1, 2014. The eight week class is attended by several adults 50 years of age and over that want to learn more about Animal Control, the Capital Humane Society and other local animal groups.
- As the weather warms, Officers are responding to an increase in bat calls. Animal Control tests most bats that have had human and/or pet contact. The bat populations are more concentrated in those neighborhoods that have older housing stock, although it is not uncommon to find them anywhere in or out of the City limits.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Health Insurance Marketplace

- Congratulations to CHS staff who are Certified Application Counselors (CACs, or in-person assistors) who were recognized as “Employees of the Month” for their hard work during the open enrollment period of the federal Health Insurance Marketplace.

Since last summer, we have partnered with Community Action, Ponca’s Tribe of NE, People’s Health Center, Lancaster County Medical Society, the Center for People in Need, AARP, NE Appleseed, the Health Center Association of NE, and NE Medicaid & Economic Assistance to coordinate efforts to educate the general public and enroll eligibles in the federal Health Insurance Marketplace or NE Medicaid. When it became clear that federal funding for in-person assistors would be very limited for our area, LLCHD contracted with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to become a Certified Application Counselor Designated Organization.

Last fall, staff members were trained as CACs. As of March 31, our CACs made 311 contacts to help people access the Marketplace and an additional 214 contacts to help people access NE Medicaid. Every week in February and March staff members worked with People’s Health Center, NE Medicaid and AARP to offer individual appointments at the Center for People during their large food distribution events. Forty six people received one-on-one assistance and an additional thirty people attended a group education session about the Marketplace. Most people seeking assistance at the Center would have been eligible for Medicaid had Nebraska decided to expand it; which means their incomes were, at the highest, a little over \$15,000 per year. Interpretation in Spanish, Vietnamese and Arabic was provided.

Refugee Health

- A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries.

This month, Peh Wah Mu, of Lincoln Public Schools discussed her experience as a Karen refugee from Burma during our monthly CHS Division Meeting. Peh Wah was an internal displaced person, living in refugee camps in Thailand for 25 years. Learning about her experiences was very helpful for our staff members who are serving refugees from Myanmar (Burma) currently.

CHS staff members provide health assessments, lab tests, and immunizations for refugees who are newly arrived in the United States, resettling in Lincoln. Patients are screened for communicable and chronic disease. Twenty five or more lab tests are conducted per patient and all refugees have several return appointments scheduled with our Public Health Clinic to complete their immunizations. We work closely with Catholic Social Services and Lutheran Family Services (our two local resettlement agencies) to serve approximately 250 people of all ages per year. In the last year, refugees have also resettled from Iran, Iraq, Congo, Cuba, Afghanistan, and Northern Africa.

DENTAL HEALTH & NUTRITION

WIC

Caseload (Participation):

Total	3304
Main	2430
LMEP	197
Cornhusker Clinic	677

Food: For November 2013

Food Monthly Obligations	\$ 216,815.73
Food Pkg Avg.	\$ 69.20
Women	\$ 41.16

Infants	\$ 146.75
Children	\$ 46.93

Mentoring:

(Number and school)

Students	2 UNMC RN students
Interns	1 RD intern
Volunteers	0
LMEP Residents	3

Dental

March, 2014 Dental Services

- Total client count (unduplicated count): 600
- Total client encounters (duplicated count): 693
- Total patient visits (duplicated count of provider appointments): 989
- Total children seen: 372 children (62%)
- Total number of all clients enrolled in Medicaid: 328 clients (54.6%)
- Total number of clients enrolled in General Assistance, receiving services at no fee: 11 clients (1.8%)
- Total number of all clients at or below 100% of poverty, receiving services at minimum fee or no fee for services: 190 clients (31.6%)
- Total number of children provided transportation and treatment services through school based program: 16 children (Holmes, Elliott, and Everett schools) during 35 patient encounters for a total of 55 provider appointments (6 children enrolled in Medicaid, 10 children uninsured receiving services at no fee).
- Community outreach activities included: Assessment and Fluoride Varnish program at Educare Center for 123 children; Presentation for 25 children at Kindercare.
- Student Rotations: 2 dental students and 4 dental hygiene students from UNMC College of Dentistry; and 2 dental assisting students from Southeast Community College rotated through clinic.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Waste Management: Nuisance/Solid Waste Complaints

Goals

Protect human health and the environment by assuring proper management and disposal of wastes and preventing illness and disease caused by improper waste management.

Methods/Strategies

Receive complaints and send letters to property owners and tenants; Investigate complaints; Issue warning notices; Abate nuisance conditions

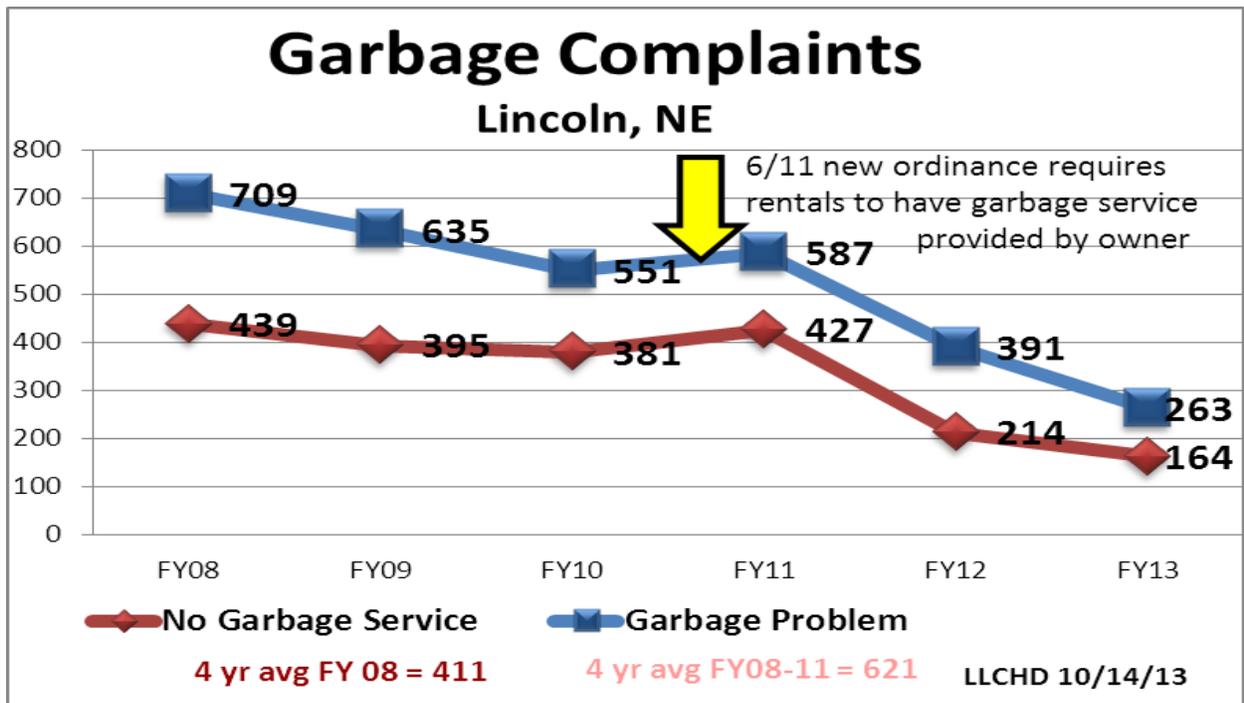
Indicator

Resolve 90% of nuisance complaints involving garbage, rodents, stagnant water or mosquitoes within 30 days.

Comparison

72% of garbage complaints were resolved within 30 days in FY13.(2) This compares to 94% in FY11, 87% in FY10, 80% in FY09 and 56% in FY08.

In June of 2011, the City of Lincoln changed LMC 8.32 to require owners of rental property (duplex and single family) to provide for garbage service. Education and enforcement of this new ordinance resulted in about a 60% reduction in garbage complaints in FY13 compared to the average numbers of complaints between FY08-FY11.



Description

The public reports nuisance complaints to the Health Department. In most cases, a letter is mailed to both property owner & tenant informing them of the complaint, and directing them to abate the conditions. A response card is included. If no response is received indicating action has been taken, staff inspects the property, and enforcement procedures are followed. In most cases, resolution is obtained, but in FY13 eighteen (18) abatements were conducted by order of the Health Director. Costs are charged as a lien against the property. Higher priority complaints include garbage, rodents, and insects, since they pose higher public health risk.

Funding/Source

Waste Hauler Occupation Tax (100%)

Partnerships & Efficiency

Mailing notices instead of field investigation of every complaint was instituted several years ago as a cost savings measure. This approach has proven to decrease the number of complaints with no findings, but delays response to problem nuisance conditions. Health is part of the city Problem Resolution Team and attends the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable. Health works closely with Building and Safety and Weed Control to address all complaints on properties. Health staff will note violations of the B&S Housing Code, including such violations on official notices and enforcement letters, and makes referrals to other agencies as appropriate.

Water Quality: Property Transfer Reviews

Goals

Protect human health by preventing waterborne illness, and preventing ground and surface water pollution.

Water Quality Indicator

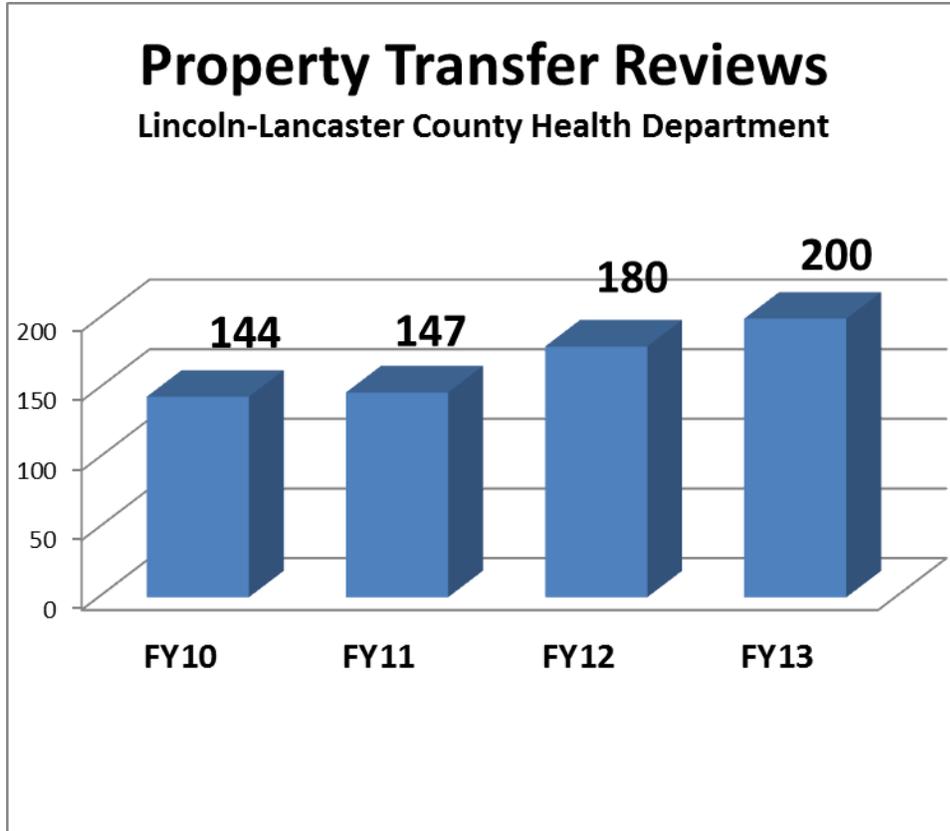
100% of property transfers are inspected to assure that wells and private wastewater treatment systems meet public health water and sewage criteria

Strategies/Methods (What we do)

Train and permit Property Transfer Inspectors; Review Property Transfer Inspector's inspection reports; Issue approval or denial; Provide consultation to resolve problems; Assure failed systems are replaced or repaired and meet current regulations.

Funding

User Fees; City General Fund/County General Fund



Comparison

The number of Property Transfer Reviews increased as home sales recovered from the recession. 200 reviews were completed in FY13, the highest total ever. So far in FY14, 105 Property Transfer Reviews have been completed.

Description

The Property Transfer code requires that prior to sale, each property that has a private well or sewage system must be inspected. These inspections are done by private businesses that are trained and permitted by the Health Department. The Property Transfer Inspectors send the inspection report to the Health Department to review. The current review fee is \$200. A “Denial” is issued if either the well or sewage system has significant deficiencies. This does not stop the sale of the property, but informs the seller and buyer of what issues may be present. When conditions present a health risk or significant risk of contamination of the environment, the Health Department follows up to assure that corrections have been made. All failed systems were repaired or replaced to protect public health and our environment. On average, about 20

failed wastewater treatment systems are identified each year. In FY13, 22 sewage systems and 21 wells were required to be repaired or replaced to protect public health and our environment. Numerous other violations have also been corrected and human health has been protected from bacterial and Nitrate contaminated water. Property transfers are split about 55% County and 45% City 3-mile limit.

HEALTH DATA & EVALUATION

- On April 23rd as a follow-up to a February 13th tabletop exercise (TTX), hospitals in the 15-county southeast Nebraska area outside of Lancaster County conducted their community-wide full scale exercise to test triage systems, hospital incident command and various counties' Emergency Managements' EOCs (Emergency Operations Centers). The exercise scenario, a winter-weather mass-casualty event involving injuries to school children, was similar to the March 19th exercise that was conducted in Lincoln; however, accident locations were changed to be highway intersections and venues near the participating hospitals.
- While all but one hospital in the region participated in the TTX, the twelve hospitals that were involved in the April 23rd exercise were: Annie Jeffrey Memorial (Osceola), Henderson Health Care, Memorial Health Care (Seward), Butler County Health Care, Jefferson Community Health, Thayer County Health Services, Community Memorial (Syracuse), Pawnee County Memorial, Community Medical (Falls City), St. Mary's Community Hospital (Nebraska City), Johnson County Hospital, and Nemaha County Hospital. All of the other area hospitals that were not participating by accepting "patients" (in Beatrice, Crete, Geneva, Friend, and York) were contacted about bed availability
- In each county that "participated" in the exercise, volunteer patients or parents of victims (or paper patients) were transported to or arrived at the 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. As with all exercises, all communications were relayed to participants with "this is an exercise or a drill" so that no one would mistake the activity as a real-world event. These exercises are excellent ways to test communications between and amongst partner agencies (e.g., EMS, the hospitals, the Emergency Operations Centers and all community partners involved, etc.), patient tracking, public information and media messaging and family assistance departments. While I won't mention all the names or affiliations of non-hospital participants, the exercise involved hundreds of participants from throughout the region. In addition to the hundreds of staff at the hospitals, county emergency managers and the four local public health departments' staffs; there was widespread participation from local schools, colleges and universities as volunteers, Region V Health Systems and the Southeast Nebraska Medical Reserve Corps, law enforcement, American Red Cross, and rescue and ambulance squads. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services were also asked to supply needed medical personnel. In some

locales, long-term care facilities, the county attorney and clergy members were participants. All hospitals exercised their calling trees or systems used to contact off-duty staff. In addition, in at least a couple of the locations the use of ham radios was utilized to test a redundant form of communication in the event cell towers are down or overloaded, landlines are down and radios aren't working. In several locations, local media covered the exercise.

- Even though several of the area hospitals did not participate except to furnish information about available beds, the exercise was a huge success and Randy Fischer, the lead exercise controller, and all of the emergency managers and public health partners who helped plan the exercises did an excellent job in preparing for the exercise. After the morning exercise, each location was asked to provide feedback (a “hot wash”) about the Strengths, Weaknesses, and Other Comments they wished to share as well as the overall assessment. The meeting or call to finalize the After Action Report (AAR) for the exercise is scheduled for May 21st.
- HDE recently received the 2013 birth data from the state for Lancaster County and our Public Health Epidemiologist, Raju Kakarlapudi, and Assistant Public Health Epidemiologist, Tommy George, have been checking the data and preparing the tables for the Vital Statistics portal on the Health Department's webpage (<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/data/vitalstats/index.htm>). An early look at the data shows that the number of teenage births continues to decline and partly as a consequence, the percentage of infants who were classified low-birth weight (LBW) also dropped. More analysis will be done by our Epidemiologists and the updated dashboard should be available before the May Board of Health meeting.

HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH

Chronic Disease Prevention

- Staff has aggressively been promoting increased physical activity to audiences of all ages. Following are a few examples:

Staff provided a program on the health risks of sitting for long periods to over 75 Lincoln Library employees;

All children in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade at Prescott Elementary participated in an all day Walk Your Child to School training. These intensive trainings are designed to help children learn how to safely walk or ride bikes to school and especially how to deal with vehicle traffic. All children participate in four modules – 1.a computerized pedestrian behavior module; 2.actually practicing crossing streets, standing away from the

curb, making eye contact with drivers, etc.; 3. recognizing the difficulty that drivers of high profile vehicles have in seeing children (the children have the opportunity to sit in the driver's seat of a large truck so they can experience how far children must be from the truck to be safe); 4. and the importance of physical activity (walking/biking) for good health

Staff facilitated the Bike to School Day observation on April 17 at Kahoa and Lakeview Elementary schools. Approximately 100 children rode their bikes to school and participated in bike rodeos held after school. Staff also taught parents how to fit helmets properly for their children.

Staff assisted with bicycle parking at the City's Earth Day Observance on April 12 at the Jayne Snyder Trails Center. Hundreds of people rode their bikes to the 'Jayne' and used the bike parking service.

Staff presented information on the National Bike Challenge and Bike to Work Week to hundreds of students, faculty, and staff at the UNL annual BikeFest on April 16. To date, 600 people from Lincoln have registered to participate in the National Bike Challenge. This challenge runs from May 1 through September 30. In 2013, Lincoln placed first in the nation in the National Bike Challenge with 1,200 participants at the end of the challenge. Lincoln is currently leading the nation in participants.

Injury Prevention

- Staff facilitated a Fire Safe Landlord Training for 13 landlords. To date, 78 landlords representing 6,967 individual units have received this training designed to help the landlords educate their tenants on prevention of apartment fires.
- Staff continues to provide Child Care Transportation training for licensed child care providers to meet the newly implemented Nebraska Child Care regulations. The three hour program is offered two times each month for up to 20 childcare staff who transport children. These trainings are mandatory for the licensed child care centers.
- Staff provided education to ten pregnant or parenting teens (8 teen mothers, 2 teen fathers) at North Star High School on proper use and installation of child passenger safety seats. During the educational program, the teens admitted to staff that they seldom wore seatbelts themselves. Staff then discussed the importance of seat belts, the statistics, role modeling for their children, and other necessary information regarding the use of seatbelts.

INFORMATION & FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Department Report – April, 2014

- The Health Director and Information and Fiscal Management Division Manager met with the Mayor and his staff to review the FY 2015 and FY 2016 Budget request.
- Fiscal reviews were completed with the management team of each division.
- Information Management staff are preparing for moving the Department from our Novell File Server to a Windows File Server.
- Fiscal Operations staff are working with receiving and processing payments for permits for Environmental Health.