

DEPARTMENT REPORT

SEPTEMBER, 2014

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

- The Health Director participated with Chief Peschong and the Mayor during the Mayor's News Conference announcing the Medication Take Back Day on September 27th.
- The Health Director serves on the Community Health Endowment Board of Trustees and Funding Committee. The Funding Committee is reviewing grant applications for the coming year.
- The Health Department Fee Schedule was designed and contains all Department fees. The Schedule is posted on the Department's webpage. Division fee schedules are posted on Division webpages.
- The Department will participate in the Combined Campaign for United Way, Community Health Charities and the Community Services Fund. The Campaign runs October 1 – November 7, 2014. The Administrative Aide will again serve as the City-Wide Coordinator and Department Coordinator.
- The LB 692, LB 1060 and LB 195 Annual Reports were submitted to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. The Department received \$834,038.00 for these programs in 2013-2014.
- The Health Director provided an orientation and tour to the new People's Health Center President/CEO, Brad Meyer.
- Kodi Bonesteel – Community Health Services Division

ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control Stats

	Sep 11- Aug 12	Sep 12- Aug 13	Sep 13- Aug 14
Pet Licenses Sold	61396	61707	62511
Cases Dispatched	24241	23704	24069
Investigation	26247	25536	26002
Animals Impounded			
Dogs	1657	1496	1630
Cats	1370	1133	1287

Department Report – September, 2014

Court Citations Issued	246	351	393
Warnings/Defects Issued	14384	15056	16083
Bite Cases Reported	485	469	460
Attack Cases Reported	63	47	55
Dogs Declared (PPD, DD,V)	85	100	94
Animal Neglect Investigations	724	788	809
Injured Animal Rescue	863	725	812
Wildlife Removal	550	470	547
Dead Animal Pickup	2239	1994	1938
Lost and Found Reports	2425	2443	2336
Phone Calls	49461	50491	45669
Average Response Time (in mins)	21	21	22

- Pet license sales were up over the previous year. Approximately 800 additional licenses were sold (1.4% increase). Animal Control’s goal is to have a 3% increase in license sales each year. Two new public service announcements were developed with the assistance from 5 City TV and will start airing in October/November 2014.
- A new Interlocal Agreement has been approved by the Lancaster County Board and will go before the City Council in October. If approved, LLCHD’s Animal Control services would be available to the County during an emergency as long as there are sufficient City resources to respond while maintaining the core Animal Control services needed in the City.
- Staff are planning and documenting current work procedures and work flow as it relates to our dispatch and licensing operations. This process will be broadened to include all the animal control functions including both field operations and office /dispatch operations. The end product will be a new software system designed to improve efficiencies in records management, dispatching, increased license sales, more pets vaccinated and improved customer service.
- Staff continue to explore on line services allowing new pet owners the ability to obtain their pet license on line and not be required to mail in new pet license and rabies documentation. Veterinarians will be an important partner for the on line licensing since we will need quick access for rabies verification.
- The Capital Humane Society Annual Dinner will be October 10th. Staff are assisting with some of the planning for that event. Staff continue to meet twice a month with Capital Humane Society Management staff to assure the day to day collaboration with CHS and Animal Control goes smoothly with minimal conflicts.

- All the Animal Control fees for service and permits fees have been posted on the Animal Control website. New photos were posted on the website and there will be a new emergency preparedness message for pet owners posted in October and November.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Chlamydia Conference

- On September 29, a conference entitled “*Chlamydia – A Common & Often Undetected Infection*” was offered to clinical and outreach staff within our community. The conference was one result of a Quality Improvement expedition related to the continually high numbers of Chlamydial infections in Lancaster County. Conference planning partners included UNL’s Student Health Center, Planned Parenthood, Family Health Services Inc., and LLCHD. Sixty eight participants from Lincoln, Omaha, Kearney, Hastings and Norfolk attended. Those who offer services in the following specialty areas were represented: corrections, college student health centers (UNL and UNK), family planning, private practice, federally qualified health centers, Indian Health Services, substance abuse treatment, and public health (LLCHD, Douglas County Health Department, Three Rivers Public Health Department, & Sarpy/Cass County Health Department).

Evaluations were very favorable, with an average rating of “*excellent*” on meeting each of the conference objectives as follows:

- 1) Describe the option of expedited partner treatment for Chlamydia as provided by in Nebraska statute (as of July 2013, LB 528).
- 2) Describe at least two components of an accurate and inclusive sexual health history.
- 3) Explain the Center for Disease Control & Prevention’s (CDC’s) recommendation to screen sexually active women ages ≤ 25 and older women with risk factors, annually.
- 4) Explain CDC's recommendation to retest women and men approximately three (3) months after treatment for Chlamydia.
- 5) Describe local initiatives implementing best practices in STI prevention, testing and treatment.
- 6) Practice their skills in discussing STI prevention, testing and treatment with youth and disparate populations.

Speakers included:

Renaissa S. Anthony, MD, MPH – Deputy Director of the Center for Reducing Health Disparities at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Promotion in the College of Public Health with a private practice at the Charles Drew Community Health Center in Omaha NE. Dr. Anthony earned her

medical degree at the University of Chicago, her Masters of Public Health at Harvard University, and her medical training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Vanderbilt University and fellowship in health policy at the National Institutes of Health and the Office of the Surgeon General.

Stephanie S. Arnold Pang - Director of Policy and Communications at the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD). She manages all policy and advocacy matters with a specific focus on policymaker education efforts at the federal level with the legislative and executive branches of government. Prior to joining NCSD, she was a senior Legislative Aide for U.S. Senator Patty Murray (WA), working on issues of sexual and reproductive health and health care reform and also worked at the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA).

Lisa Schulze, M Ed. – AASECT-certified sexuality educator for Planned Parenthood of the Heartland. She specializes in providing comprehensive sexuality education to youth and adults in schools, universities, treatment centers, and in the correctional system.

Lee Heerten, MSW - Wellness Educator at the University Health Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Lee works with clinicians and students on a variety of health and wellness issues, specializing in issues of sexuality and sexual health. Lee utilizes positive youth development in his work training and supervising peer educators, providing staff support for the University Health Center’s Student Advisory Board, and providing comprehensive life-skills education with low-income, first-generation high school students in Grand Island, NE.

Youth Panel – Five youth (ages 15-22) spoke about their choices and how they access sexual health services including the information they receive, their influences, and their relationships with clinicians.

DENTAL HEALTH & NUTRITION

WIC

Caseload (Participation):

Total	3807
Main	2864
LMEP	170
Cornhusker Clinic	773

Food: For April 2014

Food Monthly Obligations	\$ 220,436.25
Food Pkg Avg.	\$ 68.06
Women	\$ 43.37

Infants	\$ 142.78
Children	\$ 45.87

Mentoring:

(Number and school)

Students	
Interns	
Volunteers	1
LMEP Residents	1

Dental Health

- Total provider visits: 1032
- Total client encounters: 717
- Total new patients: 147
- Total unduplicated client count: 632
- Total children seen (unduplicated): 383 (61%)
- Total Medicaid enrolled clients – 383 (61%)
- Total General Assistance enrolled – 11 (1.8%)
- Total uninsured, at or below 100% of poverty – 175 (28%)
- Percentage of racial and ethnic minorities – approximately 61%. Percentage of racial and ethnic minorities, including white non-English speaking – Arabic, Kurdish, Russian, Farsi, French – approximately 69%.
- 3 dental students from UNMC College of Dentistry and 2 dental assistants from Southeast Community College rotated through the dental clinic.
- Community Outreach: Presented information on the Fluoride Varnish Program at Educare Center during enrollment activity for a total of 80 parents.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Indoor Air Quality

Goals (Purpose)

Protect human health by responding to complaints on indoor air quality and making recommendations or taking actions to prevent illness and disease.

Methods/Strategies (What we do)

- receive complaints and requests for service from the public
- provide phone consultation if no immediate health risk
- conduct investigations when necessary to protect health
- provide guidance on remediation of mold and other IAQ problems

- collaborate with B&S on enforcement

Indicator

Maintain capacity to respond to the public’s request for indoor air investigations and complaints that could result in a negative impact on human health.

Funding/Source

City General Fund (63%); County General Fund (37%)

Indoor Air Complaints

FY 09	FY 10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14
114	228	186	185	119	134

Of the 134 complaints, 113 (84%) identified mold as the main concern. Of the 134 complaints, 121 (90%) were from people living in residential properties, and 77% of these were rental properties.

Comparison

The percent of complaints from various types of residential setting remains similar to past years. The number of complaints increased 12% in FY14.

Description

If immediate health risks are not reported, complaints from people living in rental properties are responded to by sending an Official Notice letter to the landlord informing them of the complaint and asking them to take action to address the problem. Such letters resulted in acceptable action the majority of the time; however, on-site investigations had to be performed in 41 cases. Hundreds of complaints and requests for assistance on poor indoor air quality are received each year, the majority of which are handled via phone. The Health Department is mandated to assess conditions that may pose health risks in apartments and hotels regulated under LMC 5.38, but none of the revenue generated by LMC 5.38 comes to the Health Department. Staff responds to complaints of poor IAQ; provide phone consultation on IAQ; conduct onsite inspections; provide consultation on HVAC issues to improve IAQ; coordinate with B&S on health aspects of housing code compliance, especially in apartments; coordinate enforcement actions; monitor IAQ with specialized equipment; and receive referrals from physicians.

Partnerships & Efficiencies

All complaints and requests for service are screened and prioritized by professional staff. Only the most serious situations result in immediate onsite investigations. Health works closely with B&S to resolve issues and assure enforcement actions are taken when necessary to protect

human health. Health encourages private parties to use licensed contractors trained in IAQ for remediation or HVAC modifications.

HEALTH DATA & EVALUATION

- Nebraska has joined the majority of states with cases of enterovirus D68, which has been a rare disease until this year. There has been at least one case confirmed by the CDC recently and other samples have been sent to the CDC for confirmation. Enteroviruses spread easily so everyone should be on the lookout for cases. Symptoms start out like a cold (coughing, sneezing, fever, etc.), but this is a respiratory virus that presents with wheezing and respiratory distress, with or without a fever. Children who have asthma or allergies are most at risk. If a child has respiratory issues as described, parents should seek medical treatment. There's no vaccine for enterovirus D68 and the treatment is generally just supportive care (providing oxygen, making sure the child is hydrated). Fortunately, most children will get over the illness in a week or so. Prevention is the best way to control the virus and hand washing, not touching eyes and noses, coughing into your sleeve and staying home if sick or away from others who are sick are the recommendations to prevent getting ill or making others sick.
- There have now been two confirmed cases of West Nile virus (WNV) reported in Lancaster County in 2014. These individuals had symptoms (fever, fatigue, neurological conditions) that caused them to seek medical attention. Since people are still outdoors in the evenings when mosquitoes are active, it's likely that there may be more cases through October. In recent years there have been only a few cases of WNV, as opposed to 2003 when we had 129 cases.
 - Since there is no vaccine against WNV, the best prevention is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. Suggested ways to reduce the chances of being bitten include:
 - o wearing long sleeves and using a repellent containing DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus;
 - o avoiding being out at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active; and
 - o draining any standing water such as dumping bird baths and pet dishes to reduce the potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
- Hopefully, with the end of hot weather, the number of cases of WNV, and exposures to bats (potentially rabid) will end. However, with the start of fall comes an increase in flu activity. This is a reminder that the best prevention against the flu is to get vaccinated. While there has been a delay in shipments to the providers, including the Department and the VFC program, seasonal flu immunizations in various formulations (shots or nasal sprays as well as number of flu strains in the vaccine) are available in the community now and it is the right time to get immunized. Once again this year, it's a recommendation from the CDC that everyone six months of age or older get immunized against the flu.
- We have scheduled a strategic planning session for October 9th, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Training Rooms at the Health Department that the BOH members are welcome to attend.

This is a follow-up session to the planning that the Management Team was involved in in May.

HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH

Chronic Disease Prevention and Minority Health:

- The 2014 Summer Food Service Program concluded its 52 days of operation on August 8th, with 88,725 meals (31,632 breakfasts and 57,093 lunches) provided to more than 2,700 children at 37 sites in the lowest income areas of Lincoln.
- Lincoln had 1,311 riders participate this year in the National Bike Challenge, sponsored primarily by the League of American Bicyclists. They accumulated 698,095 miles from May 1 through September 30. Lincoln was second in the nation behind Madison, WI which had 1,356 riders accumulate 746,996 miles, Omaha was in third at the end of the event. Nebraska had 2,440 riders total 1,299,048 miles to finish in second behind WI with 7,850 riders and 3,943,947 miles. Among colleges and universities nationally, Union College was second, UNMC-College of Dentistry was seventh, and UNL-Main Campus was 15th. Nationally, there were 47,088 riders that rode 23,320,648 miles during the Challenge.

Injury Prevention

- Staff conducted two community-wide child passenger car seat events at AAA Nebraska on August 23rd, and at Bryan Health in conjunction with the NE Safe Kids Child Passenger Tech Training on September 13th. Another car seat check was conducted at Trabert Hall for Lancaster County Probation's non-violent offenders. 98 seats were checked at the three events and 28 seats were provided to families. Funding for 22 of these seats was provided by Aidan's Animals.
- Staff participated in Streets Alive, coordinated by the Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln. The SKLLC Bike/Pedestrian Safety Task Force conducted a mini bike rodeo, and distributed bike safety educational materials to participants. An estimated 4,000 plus people attended this community event designed to encourage citizens to be more physically active and to eat healthy foods.

Tobacco

- The second summer with the tobacco-free park policy has been completed. Park and Recreation staff has not documented any problems/complaints this year. In the past year, the supervisor of the LLCHD Tobacco Prevention Program has been contacted by seven communities from Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas to discuss the entire process used by Lincoln to implement our Tobacco Free Parks Policy.

INFORMATION & FISCAL MANAGEMENT

- City Information Services have assigned two veteran staff to provide “enterprise administration and support” for the Accela application. This is a welcome move for the Health Department and in just a few weeks, we are beginning to see benefits.
- Information Management and Animal Control kicked off the development of requirements for an Animal Control Information System. Over the next four-five months, staff will work to define work processes and desirable requirements for software solutions that support the work.