

DEPARTMENT REPORT

JANUARY, 2015

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

- The Health Director continues to coordinate state legislative activities for the Department and the Mayor's Office. The Mayor's Office Legislative Review Team meets weekly during the legislative session. The Health Director provided legislative training on the City's Legislative website to City staff. The Health Director continues participation in weekly legislative conference calls with the Nebraska local health directors and Friends of Public Health.
- Jim Butler, a national Quality Improvement consultant, spent four days at the health Department working to assist staff in meeting accreditation, quality improvement and performance management needs.
- The Health Director met with Lancaster County Emergency Management, Law Department, Lincoln Fire and Rescue and an emergency care physician to discuss medical direction in case of an emergency.
- The Health Director provided a demonstration on the Health Department's Time Tracking System to City Departments. She also met with Law Department and Information System staff to determine implementation of the system for the Law Department.
- Employee of the Month – Nick Finelli – Animal Control Division

ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control Stats

	Sep 12- Dec 12	Sep 13- Dec 13	Sep 14- Dec 14
Pet Licenses Sold	20121	19885	20120
Cases Dispatched	7907	8037	7860
Investigation	8387	8583	8443
Animals Impounded			
Dogs	498	476	474
Cats	401	454	462
Court Citations Issued	122	140	101

Department Report – December, 2014

Warnings/Defects Issued	5314	6080	5523
Bite Cases Reported	147	149	162
Attack Cases Reported	17	11	20
Dogs Declared Pot. Dangerous	25	22	21
Dangerous Dogs	3	4	7
Animal Neglect Investigations	212	174	195
Injured Animal Rescue	221	221	261
Wildlife Removal	141	116	155
Dead Animal Pickup	651	564	685
Lost and Found Reports	852	684	788
Phone Calls	16324	14223	14354
Average Response Time (in mins)	12	15	17

- The Animal Control Advisory Committee met on January 21, 2015 and welcomed Captain Jerry Witte from the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office as a new member. The Committee received a short legislative update on the bills that Animal Control has been reviewing. They also reviewed the end of fiscal year statistics and discussed some of the 3 and 5 year trends.
- Staff is updating several of our most used pamphlets and educational materials. Any of the educational materials that we use often will be included in whole or summary on the AC website.
- Staff is working with local emergency preparedness personnel to plan and participate in an upcoming table top exercise. Board of Health members and Animal Control Advisory Committee members were updated at their respective January meetings.
- Staff participated in many of the quality improvement meetings during January. Animal Control has several staff involved in the QI and Accreditation process. Currently, Animal Control is involved in a major QI project as we define our work flow process/procedures and how that information will contribute to more efficiencies in our dispatch and response duties.
- Animal Control Officers continue to complete license defects in a timely manner and several defects have been converted into license sales which also includes rabies vaccination documentation.
- Twelve legislative bills were reviewed by the Animal Control Manager. Many of the bills pertained to the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act. Summaries were written and included as part of the larger Department legislative review process.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

IPV & Sexual Violence Screening

- Community Health Services began using a new screening tool this month for Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) & Sexual Violence. Staff received training on the revised policy & procedures in December. Our goal is to treat our patients with respect and dignity, providing care, safety, and referral information to survivors in the health care setting in accordance with Nebraska law.
- IPV is defined as actual or threatened physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, or stalking abuse by an intimate partner. An intimate partner can be a current or former spouse or non-marital partner, such as a boyfriend, girlfriend, or dating partner. Intimate partners can be of the same or opposite gender. Sexual violence includes nonconsensual completed or attempted penetration of the vagina or anus, nonconsensual completed or attempted oral sex, nonconsensual intentional touching of a sexual nature, or nonconsensual non-contact acts of a sexual nature such as voyeurism and verbal or behavioral sexual harassment. Sexual violence can be perpetrated by anyone, such as a friend, an acquaintance, a current or former spouse/partner, a family member, or a stranger.
- We are now using the Colorado Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System screening tool to screen for IPV and sexual violence. This tool has been shown to predict the likelihood of severe physical violence, physical violence, verbal aggression, and sexual coercion (American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 2001; 21 [2]).
- Clinical and case management staff members are required to read the following statement and complete the IPV screen on every person accessing CHS services: “Because violence is so common, every person accessing our services is asked the following questions and offered help if needed. I am required to ask the questions on a routine basis in case your answers may change.”
 - a) “Thinking back over the past year, on any occasion were you hit, slapped, kicked, raped, or otherwise physically hurt by someone you know or knew intimately, such as a spouse, partner, ex-spouse or partner, boyfriend, girlfriend, or date?”
 - b) “Considering your current partners or friends, or any past partners or friends, is there anyone who is making you feel unsafe now?”
 - c) “In the past year, have the police ever been called to your home because of a fight or argument, no matter who was fighting or who was at fault?”
- A “yes” response to any of the three questions is a “positive” screen. When the screen is positive, staff follow-up with an assessment of immediate danger. If the patient is in

immediate danger, a call to 911 is made. If the patient is not in immediate danger and is a minor (under age 19) or a vulnerable adult (18 years of age or older), staff are required to report to the Adult & Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline. Staff members assist all patients who have a positive screen make a personal safety plan following the format of the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition. In addition, staff members make prompt referrals for all patients who have a positive screen (e.g. Voices of Hope, Friendship Home, personal counseling, etc.).

- *A huge thank you* to Tim Sieh at the City Attorney’s office for his review and guidance and to Betsy Resch and Jennifer Lantz who worked diligently to assure that the new screening questions were added to our electronic health record!

DENTAL HEALTH & NUTRITION

WIC

Caseload (Participation):

Total	3593
Main	2742
LMEP	Closed
Cornhusker Clinic	851

Food: For July 2014 -

Food Monthly Obligations	\$ 245,953.54
Food Pkg Avg.	\$ 68.19
Women	\$ 43.50
Infants	\$ 143.80
Children	\$ 46.75

Mentoring:

(Number and school)

Students	6 UNMC RN students
Interns	
Volunteers	
LMEP Residents	2

DENTAL HEALTH:

- Number of clients served (unduplicated count): 567
- Number of client encounters (duplicated count): 639
- Number of patient visits (duplicated provider visits): 924
- Number of Medicaid clients served: 366 (65%)
- Number of racial and ethnic minorities and non-English speaking white: 401 (71%)
- Number of children served: 336 (59%)
- Number of clients served during extended hours: 52 clients for 85 patient visits.
- Number of children served during extended hours: 48 (92%)
- Number of Medicaid clients served during extended hours:
- Number of racial and ethnic minorities and non-English speaking white clients:

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Program Area: Waste Management

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

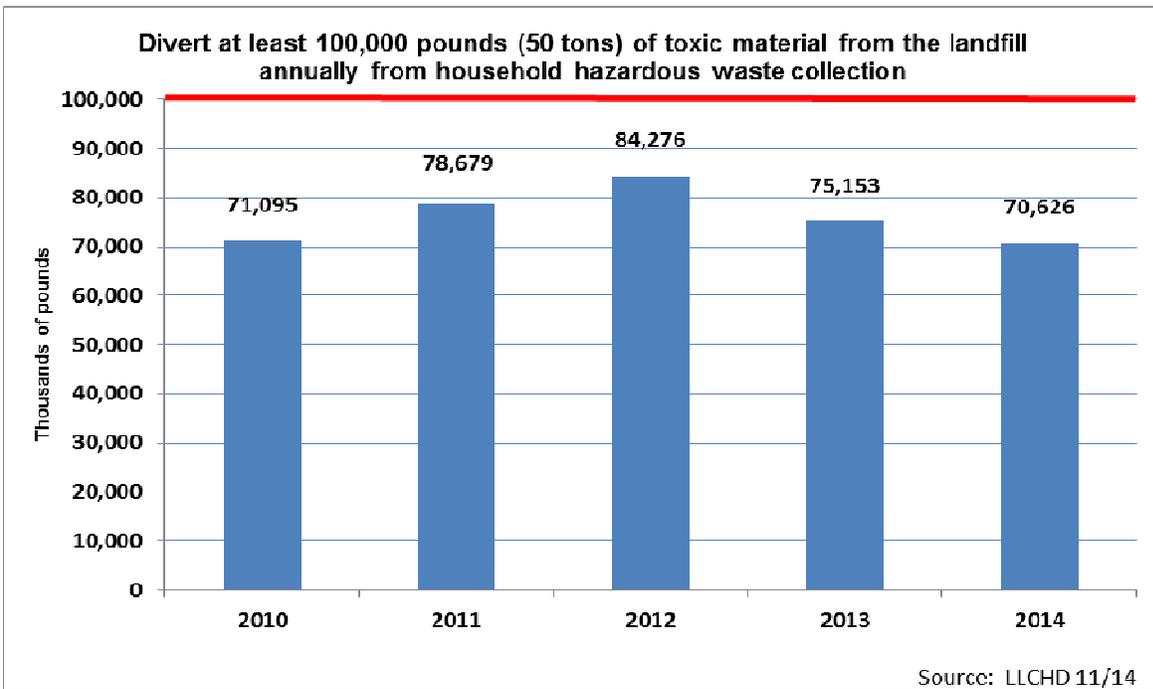
Waste Management Program Goals:

Protect human health and the environment by: reducing exposures to hazardous materials; assuring proper management and disposal of hazardous and “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
- Provide 2 early and late season appointment only HHW collections at the N. 48th Street Station
- Safe Homes for Seniors Service – HHW education and management for seniors
- 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
- Plan for future collection facility that would provide the public with year round access to proper hazardous waste disposal.

Indicator:



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

Comparison:

	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14
Hazardous Waste (lbs)	71,095	78,679	84,276	75,153	70,626
Participants	2,287	2,522	2,519	2,113	2,303

Description:

EPH Waste Section staff have been coordinating mobile Household Hazardous Waste Collection events for Lincoln and Lancaster County residents for 30 years. These mobile collections provide residents with 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. Two appointment only collections were held at the N 48th St. landfill site. 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. In FY14, the HHW program required 1.73 FTE and direct program costs were \$244,578 and total costs were \$303,790.

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 safety, availability and convenience of hazardous waste disposal for the public. Staff wrote a grant to the Nebraska Environmental Trust (see below) which was funded and will help achieve this goal. Work is moving forward quickly for both a facility site analysis and for a community engagement initiative. Several focus groups of both businesses and the general public were held in January 2015. Work will be completed on both aspects of this grant by June 2015.



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 limited options and public access to dispose of hazardous waste, which points to a clear need for a permanent and fixed 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 2014 corporate partners included Zoetis, Lincoln Industries, Veyance Technologies, Union College, and Walmart, who contributed staffing (technical & non-technical), food,

promotion and event sites. A growing list of community volunteers from local firms like Nebraska Global, Midwest Bank and Lincoln Women of Today assist with 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, used oil, lead acid batteries, button batteries, and electronics are not accepted at collections since other community options exist. Staff work with local businesses to help ensure that these items be used, reused, repurposed, recycled and/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 and Habitat for Humanity ReStore. Tapping community recycling and disposal options for certain materials and waste allows program dollars and education to be focused on higher priority wastes that are more dangerous. 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. Highly hazardous and large quantity loads of hazardous wastes are referred to trained LLCHD staff for handling and oversight.

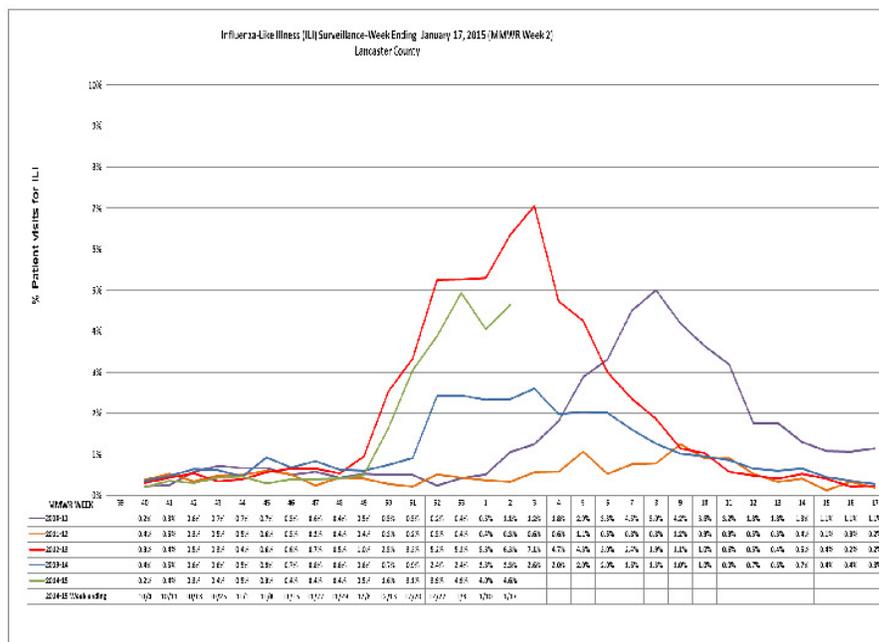
HEALTH DATA & EVALUATION

- Our communicable disease staff members have been extremely busy of late. In addition to the seasonal influenza starting earlier this year than last year, they have been working

with a pertussis outbreak and we have also had the first case of measles in 25 years to address.

While there have been pertussis cases diagnosed in the community throughout the year, the number of cases rose significantly starting in late October/early November and we ended the year with the largest pertussis outbreak in our recent memory. Staff has been working with providers, schools, parents and the individuals to try to get the outbreak under control. While most of the individuals who contracted pertussis were not up to date with the recommended vaccinations, some were, so we will be analyzing the data from the recent outbreak to understand the factors involved once the numbers start falling off. Since the immunity from the childhood vaccinations apparently wanes over time, especially during late adolescence, it is recommended that teens and adults should receive a Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) vaccination. This is especially true for pregnant women early during the third trimester of each pregnancy and for caregivers of infants under six months of age.

As we have discussed before, this year’s dominant flu type (H3N2) is not matched with the strain that was part of this year’s flu vaccine. In addition, cases of the flu arose earlier this year than last, which is similar to the chart for 2012-2013. At this point, it appears that we may be close to the peak, but surveillance data from the schools indicates that there are some schools with significant numbers of absences due to influenza-like illness (ILI).



- As was initially reported in the news, there was a lab report on a Lancaster County child that was positive for measles. Therefore, we thought we had the first

local case of measles in 25 years. However, since there was no connection to the recent measles outbreak associated with Disneyland and there also was no travel history or connection to any other measles case, staff was unsure about how or where the child could have contracted the disease. Therefore, we asked for the blood work to be sent to the CDC in order for them to confirm whether it was actually measles or possibly a false positive initial lab report. The lab results at the CDC were negative for measles. After we received the CDC results a second news release was issued to report that the Lancaster County measles case was not confirmed.

Also, other illnesses such as gastroenteritis that have caused outbreaks have also needed to be addressed while the unusual pertussis, flu and measles activities are being investigated so the staff have done a great job keeping up.

- Invitations have been sent to our local community partners for the tabletop exercise (TTX) on February 11 that has a tornado scenario. We hope to have more than 100 participants at the exercise.
- Staff arranged for the contract with the QI contractors, Jim Butler and Chris Harrington, who spent the week of January 19th (January 20 to 23) meeting with our QI Council, Management Team, All Staff and provided a day and a half learning session for the QI Team. The week was very productive for those involved.

HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH

Chronic Disease Prevention and Minority Health

- Staff worked with Channel 10 Health to develop and film short “health challenge” videos to use with the Let’s Move Lincoln! social media campaign. Each video is less than three minutes and features our Let’s Move spokesperson, Anna Wishart, and a local child challenging the community to make simple health behavior changes. The community will take the challenge by uploading to Facebook or Twitter pictures or videos of them doing the challenge. Staff will approve all posts and entries prior to posting them on the site. The challenges will be promoted by the GO Team partners and will be included in newsletters and print advertisement. The challenge videos include:
 - Healthy Hydration – making and trying a water flavored with fruits, vegetables, herbs, or spices;
 - Husker Push-Ups – challenging a partner to a push-up contest;
 - Dairy Jingle – writing and performing a parody about low-fat dairy;

- Shark Squats – challenging the community to do ‘shark squats’ periodically throughout the day;
- Short 54321 Go Challenges – challenging the community to do something related to 54321 Go activities (such as showing a favorite snack or a favorite physical activity).

Tobacco Prevention

- The work that staff have done to assist residential behavioral health facilities to implement tobacco free campuses has prompted other such facilities to request the same kind of assistance. Staff are laying the ground work with Houses of Hope, a residential facility for men who are recovering from drug and/or alcohol addiction, by discussing tobacco cessation, providing quit kits, and beginning discussion with leadership on working toward a tobacco free campus. Many of the clients of Houses of Hope have come from CenterPointe which implemented a tobacco free campus policy in 2014.
- Seventeen tobacco and vapor store owners, managers, and employees participated in the December Tobacco and ID training coordinated by staff and provided by the Lincoln Police Department. The training information was updated to include the age restrictions on sales of vapor products. These trainings are designed to help tobacco retail managers/employees prevent sales of tobacco to minors.

Injury Prevention:

- Staff assisted the Chairs and members of the six Safe Kids Lincoln Lancaster County (SKLLC) task forces to define and implement their workplans for 2015. When creating the workplans, the task forces consider child injury information, the partner resources needed to effectively address the injury risks, how and to whom the information will be provided, and how the task forces might evaluate the effectiveness of their efforts. The progress of these workplans are assessed throughout the year and are reported to the SKLLC Coalition, the Safe Kids Nebraska Coalition, and to Safe Kids Worldwide.

INFORMATION & FISCAL MANAGEMENT

- The Health Director provided an overview to the Department’s Time Reporting System to Directors and staff from other City Departments who had expressed interest in learning more. The Health Director and IFM Division Manager are meeting with the City’s Chief Information Officer and his staff to discuss how to respond to the interest by several departments to use the programming we have developed.
- Information Management staff continue to move forward with development of requirements for the Animal Control Project. A Project Scope meeting has been held to define the scope for the Updating/Rewrite of the Inspect Tab program.

