

DEPARTMENT REPORT

MARCH, 2016

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Plans are underway for the Board of Health Annual Luncheon and Awards Ceremony. The luncheon and awards ceremony are scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2016 from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Bryan Health East – Conference Center. Ali Khan, MD, Dean of the University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Public Health, will be the keynote speaker.

The Health Director continues to work with the University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Public Health on arrangements for classes to be held at the Health Department. The first class is scheduled for the fall semester.

The Health Director continues to work with the Mayor's Office on the "What Works Cities" initiative.

The Health Director attended the Community Health Endowment's Annual Board of Trustees Retreat on March 23, 2016. She also participated in the Endowment's site visit at the Health Department for the Diabetes Grant Program.

ANIMAL CONTROL

	Sep 13- Feb 14	Sep 14- Feb 15	Sep 15- Feb 16
Pet Licenses Sold	31264	31223	32044
Cases Dispatched	10727	10449	11226
Investigation	11533	11326	12218
Animals Impounded			
Dogs	676	643	676
Cats	580	635	623
Court Citations Issued	192	160	185
Warnings/Defects Issued	7819	7015	8385
Bite Cases Reported	195	208	214
Attack Cases Reported	14	27	20
Dogs Declared Pot. Dangerous	33	26	34

Dangerous Dogs	5	11	14
Animal Neglect Investigations	300	278	268
Injured Animal Rescue	285	326	337
Wildlife Removal	171	187	230
Dead Animal Pickup	726	860	836
Lost and Found Reports	848	1053	1028
Phone Calls	20477	20484	23427
Average Response Time (in mins)	20	17	18

Animal Control officers worked with the Lincoln Police Department on an animal cruelty case involving a black Labrador that was found deceased in a carry kennel near South 37th Street and South Street. The case was posted by LPD on the Crime Stoppers media site. The case received a lot of media attention and after several days, the dog owner came forward claimed responsibility and was arrested. A second person was also arrested for helping the dog owner to move the deceased dog and dropping it off at said location. The case is currently being processed in the court.

Warmer weather has brought more calls to Animal Control. Staff are responding to increased calls on dog bites, attacks, barking dogs, dogs at large and strays. There has also been an increased number of wildlife calls, including removal of bats.

Local veterinarians are being contacted to remind them of our Spay/Neuter grant assistance for low income individuals and families. Animal Control will be increasing the grant amounts paid to the local veterinarians who will in turn reduce the total costs low income pet owners will have to pay for the spay/neuter procedure. Qualifying individuals can have up to 2 pets altered in a one year period. Public service announcements have also been developed to encourage pet owners to have their pets spayed/neutered.

Staff attended trainings on Performance Management and Public Health Ethics. The trainings provided a lot of practical and useful information that Animal Control will implement as part of the Department's overall work of Performance Management and Accreditation.

Animal Control Officer Nick Finelli and Field Supervisor Scott Lowry are writing new procedures for officer training and safety. The goal is to develop a defined and ongoing training schedule that would keep all Animal Control officers current on their field skills. Officer Finelli took the lead on this project and has done a good job in his research and presentation.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Diabetes Supports for the Poor & Uninsured

Program Goal: Connect low-income, uninsured adults with diabetes with a medical home, while helping them with the resources to manage their diabetes.

Addresses Healthy People 2020 Goals:

- 1) Reduce the proportion of persons with a hemoglobin A1c value greater than 9%.
- 2) Increase the proportion of adults with hypertension whose blood pressure is under control.

Available resources:

1) **Testing Supplies**

Glucometer, glucometer strips, lancets, needles/syringes.

2) **Medications for Diabetes**

Any medication for diabetes while the patient establishes a medical home (usually 3 months).

3) **Bus passes/Handivan passes**

Transportation to and from medical home appointments – short term.

4) **Diabetes Specialty Clinic**

At Clinic with a Heart, offered once a month. For adults with a diagnosis of diabetes who are uninsured, live in Lancaster County and are on medications to control their diabetes. All patients accessing the Diabetes Specialty Clinic receive inter-professional diabetes care including medical therapy, education, a care plan, free glucose testing supplies and case management to a medical home.

Program description:

Assistance is intended to be short-term. For most patients, once they are connected to the federal 340B program, they can access lower cost diabetes medications. We utilize group purchasing power to keep our costs low. We emphasize consistent testing and diabetes education provided by a specialized healthcare provider to enable at-risk patients to engage in effective self-care.

Partners:

Bryan Health Center, Clinic with a Heart, Health 360 Clinic, Kohll's/Wagey Drug, Lincoln ED Connections, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, People's Health Center, Lancaster County Medical Society, NE Urban Indian Health Center, & Saint Elizabeth's Regional Medical Center.

Results:

Glucometer Strip Distribution (March 2012 – December 2015)

- 764 unique people served

- 2,541 referrals
- 5,937 vials of glucometer strips distributed

911 Calls for Diabetes Related Health Conditions (September 2011 – December 2015)

- 164 unique people out of the 764 unique people served (21%) who received glucometer strips also called 911 from September 2011 to December 2015 for a diabetes related concern.
- 61% of the 164 people made the same number of calls (before starting our program & after).
- 15% of the 164 people made less calls (after starting our program as before).
- 24% of the 164 people made more calls (after starting our program as before).

Diabetes Specialty Clinic (April 2014 - November 2015)

- 75% of patients accessing the Diabetes Specialty Clinic were connected to a medical home.
- Patients accessing the Diabetes Specialty Clinic experienced a statistically significant decrease in hemoglobin A1c (2.5%).
- Patients accessing the Diabetes Specialty Clinic experienced statistically significant reductions in systolic and diastolic blood pressure (22% reduction).

DENTAL HEALTH & NUTRITION

WIC

Caseload (Participation)

Total	3802
Main	2911
Cornhusker Clinic	891
%Enrolled with Benefits	84.1%

	LLCHD	State of Nebraska
Total Women	926 (24.3%)	8574 (22.8%)
Total Children	2008 (52.8%)	19995 (53.1%)
Total Infants	868 (22.8%)	9020 (23.9%)
Infants Receiving Breastmilk	289 (33.2%)	2663 (29.5%)
Infants Exclusive Breastmilk	116 (13.3%)	1052 (11.6%)

Mentoring:

(Number and school)

Students	
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	UNMC Nursing-2 Doane Undergraduate-1
Interns	UNL Dietetic Interns-2
Volunteers	
LMEP Residents	LMEP Resident-2

Our February caseload was 3802 participants. Our current fiscal year average is 3751 participants per month, which is the highest that our average caseload has been since 2011. Our number of Infants who are receiving some breastmilk continues to increase (0.9% for February).

DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM:

Dental Clinical Services

- Total number of clients served (unduplicated count): 448
- Total number of patient encounters (duplicated client count): 610
- Total number of patient visits (duplicated provider appointments/visits): 809
- Total number of Racial/Ethnic and White Non-English speaking patients: 336 (75%)
- Total number of children served: 278 (62%)
- Total number of clients enrolled in Medicaid: 285 (64%)
- Number of clients served during Thursday evening hours (unduplicated count): 64
- Number of patient encounters during Thursday evening hours (duplicated client count): 71
- Number of patient visits during Thursday evening hours (duplicated provider appointments/visits): 110
- Total number of Racial/Ethnic and White Non-English speaking patients: 51 (80%)
- Number of children served during Thursday evening hours: 61 (95%)
- Number of patients enrolled in Medicaid: 51 (80%)

Community Based Dental Outreach Activities

Fluoride Varnish and Screening Program:

- North WIC Office (27th & Cornhusker Highway): 13 children and parents
- LLCHD WIC Office: 33 children and parents

School Based Program: 20 children identified with urgent care needs were provided free transportation and treatment services (10 children enrolled in Medicaid; 10 children uninsured; 13 children of racial and ethnic minorities (65%); 2 children with language barriers).

- 13 children from Elliott Elementary School provided 22 patient encounters for a total of 24 provider visits.
- 7 children from Holmes Elementary School provided 21 patient encounters for a total of 24 provider visits.

Student Rotation Program:

- 4 UNMC Dental Hygiene Students rotated through dental clinic.
- 2 Southeast Community College Dental Assisting students rotated through the dental 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 within 30 days.

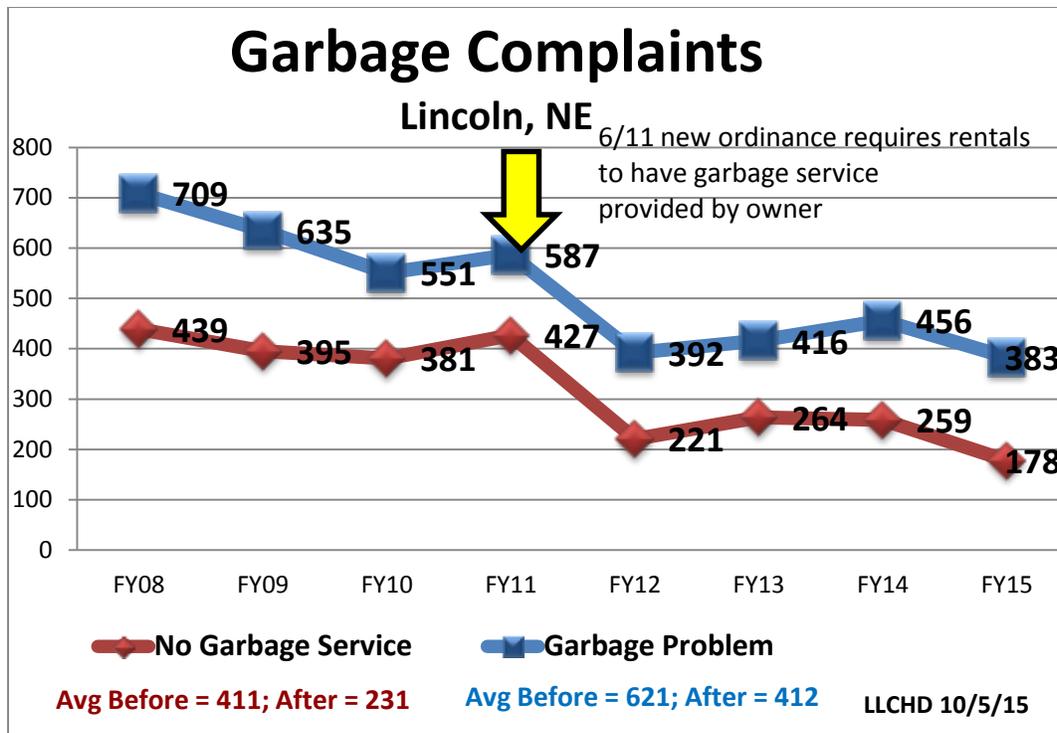
Funding/Source:

Waste Hauler Occupation Tax (100%)

Comparison:

84% of garbage complaints were resolved within 30 days in FY15. This compares to 86% in FY14, 72% in FY 13, 83% in FY12, 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. For the years FY08-FY11 there was an average of 621 garbage complaints. For the years FY12-FY15, there was an average of 412 garbage complaints. Education on, and enforcement of, this new ordinance resulted in a **34% reduction of garbage complaints**. FY15 had the lowest number of garbage complaints (383) and the lowest number of complaints on no garbage service (178) in the past 8 years.



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, directing them to abate the conditions, and asking them to complete & return a post card. If no response is received indicating action has been taken, staff inspects the property, and issue official warning notices if appropriate. In most cases, resolution is obtained, but abatement of the conditions is necessary between 20 and 40 times each year. Costs are charged as a lien (special assessment) against the property. Higher priority complaints include garbage, stagnant water, mosquitoes, sewage discharge, standing water, water safety, and unfenced backyard pools, since they present the highest public health risk.

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's 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, includes such violations on official notices and enforcement letters, and makes referrals via Accela Automation (or electronic database), email, or phone 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):

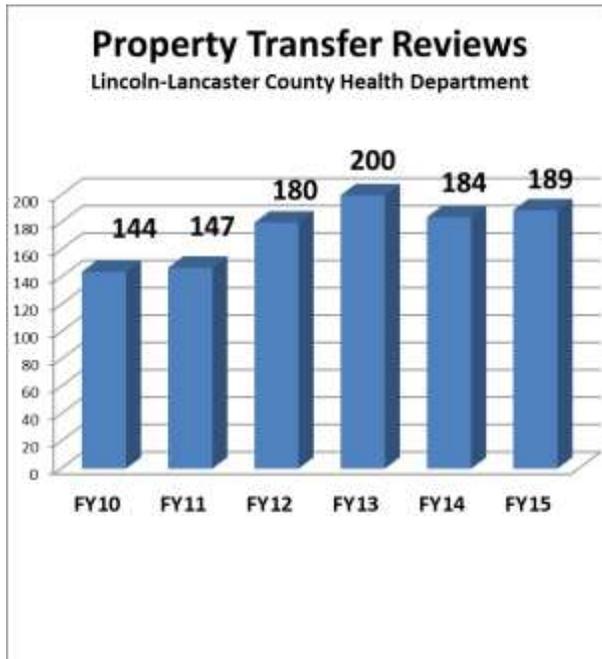
Train and permit Property Transfer Inspectors; Review Property Transfer Inspector’s inspection reports; Issue approval or denial; Provide consultation to resolve problems; Assure failed systems are replaced or repaired and meet current regulations.

Funding/Source (1):

100% of direct field costs were funded by user fees.

Comparison:

The number of Property Transfers reviewed has remained in the 180 to 200 range over the past four years. The long term trend is increasing numbers of Property Transfers. So far in FY16, we have reviewed 85 property transfers, which is about 10 more than last year.



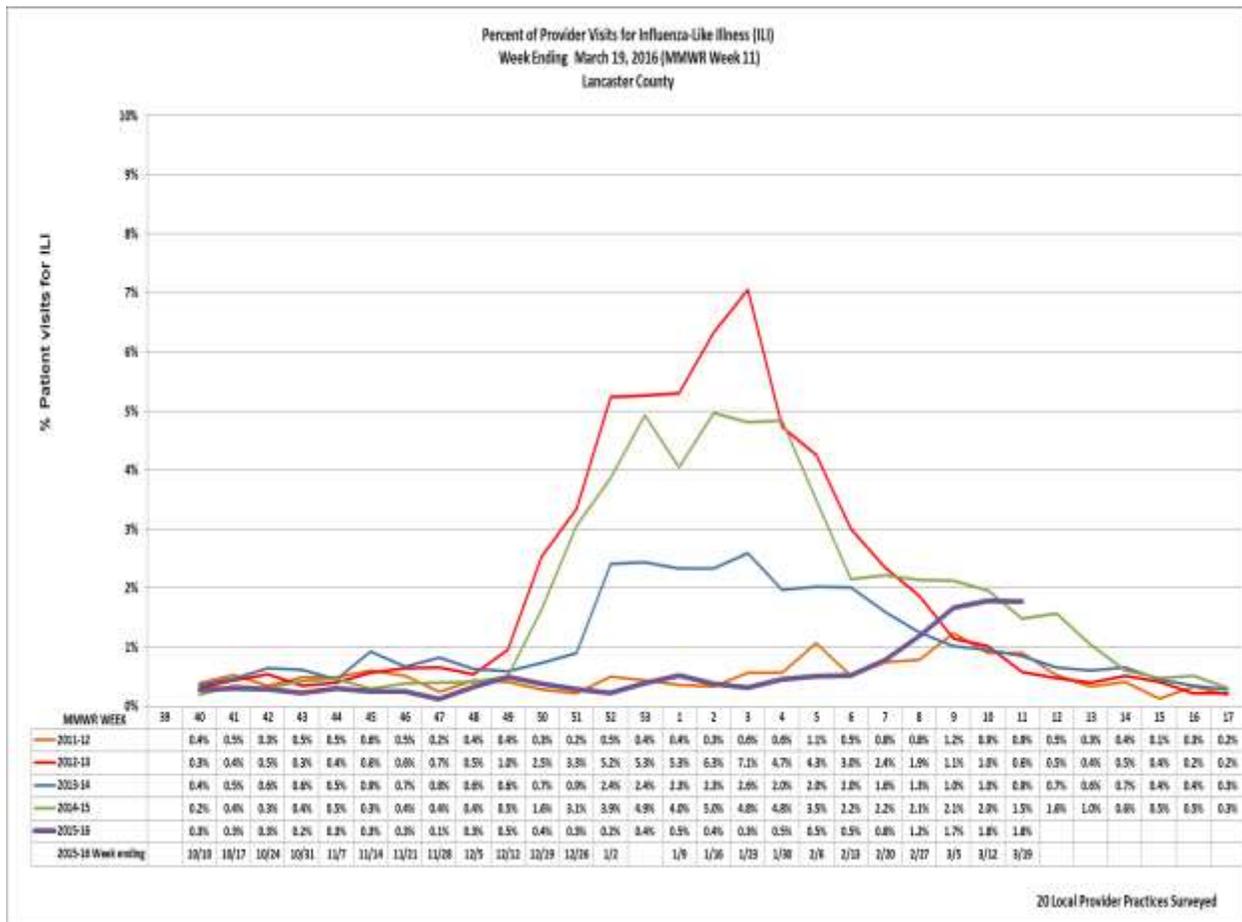
Description:

The Property Transfer regulations (LMC 24.42 and County Resolution R-13-0064) require that prior to sale, each property that has a private well or sewage system must be inspected. Inspections are conducted by private businesses that are trained and permitted by the Health Department. The Property Transfer Inspectors send the inspection report to the Health Department for review. A review fee of \$210 was charged in FY15, and is \$215 for FY16. 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. In FY15, sixteen (16) failed sewage systems and thirteen (13) wells that were contaminated or had significant deficiencies LLCHD required to be repaired or replaced to protect human health and our environment. Numerous other violations have also been corrected and human health has been protected from bacterial and Nitrate contaminated water. About 55% of the properties are in the County/Village jurisdictions and 45% in the City 3-mile jurisdiction.

HEALTH DATA & EVALUATION

After a slow start this flu season, flu activity has increased in recent weeks in Lincoln and Lancaster County. While this has been a relatively mild flu season and the peak is nowhere as high as in most years, the current rate is higher than usual for this time of year. A look at the graphs posted on the website (<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/data/flu/WeeklyFluGraphs.pdf>) and the one shown below, show the gradual uptick in cases in recent weeks after following a pattern similar to the 2011-2012 flu season. The good news is the mild flu season this year is probably due to this season's flu vaccine, which is proving to be up to 60 percent effective against the circulating flu strains. However, each flu season is different, so while it appears that we may be peaking soon we probably will continue to see late-season flu cases in the community until mid-April.



There continues to be concerns about the Zika virus, and the link to the CDC's information in the Health Department's Featured Links should be a good source of information for those who are interested. There is still much more to be learned about the Zika virus and a great deal that is unknown at this time, but new information could come at any time and the CDC will update their website when more is learned. What we do know is that there is no vaccine to prevent Zika virus infection as yet and there is also no effective treatment for the virus. It is still the recommendation that pregnant women and women who are planning to become pregnant are

advised to avoid traveling to the affected countries due to the absence of a vaccine against the virus and no effective treatment. Women also need to be aware that Zika cases have been documented where there was sexual transmission of Zika virus from males returning from the affected countries who had contracted the virus there. CDC is continuing to research about the health effects of Zika virus and how it is transmitted.

Now that the community health assessment (CHA) and community health improvement plan (CHIP) have been updated, staff from the HDE Division are focused on documenting the processes for these and other requirements needed for accreditation. However, we are still asking for any comments about the CHA and CHIP plans and there's a survey feedback link at <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/data/MAPP.htm> and also on the second page of the two documents found in the Department's Featured Links.

HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH

Among the health indicators of the Division of Health Promotion and Outreach are four that relate specifically to tobacco prevention. The workplans of the tobacco prevention staff are developed to address each of the indicators. They are:

- Decrease the smoking rate of Lancaster County adults to 18.5% by 2018. (Data Source: BRFSS 2013 baseline – 19.2%; **2014 – 18.3%**)
- Decrease the smoking rate of Lancaster County youth, 9th – 12th grade, to 11.5% by 2018. (Data Source: YRBS **2015 – 12.4%**)
- Maintain percent of Lincoln and Lancaster County retailers selling tobacco products to minors to below 10% (Data source: Lincoln and Lancaster County Retail compliance checks. (2014 baseline: Lincoln – 7.9%; Lancaster County – 5.6%; **2015: Lincoln – 13%; Lancaster County 13.5%**)
- The number of identified multi-family smoke-free housing living units will increase by a minimum of 5% per year through 2018. (Data Source – Smoke-free Housing Registry. December 2014 baseline – 3159 units; **March 21, 2016 – 4,930 units**)

Two of these indicators, adult and youth smoking rates, are also indicators in the Mayor's Taking Charge Performance Indicators. Staff, along with community partners, are using evidence-based strategies to address each of the indicators. A sampling of these strategies from the past month are as follows:

- Coordinated a tobacco retailer compliance check with the LPD and four youth volunteers to attempt to purchase tobacco from 39 retailers. Seven sales were made to youth bringing the non-compliance rate to 18%. Unfortunately, the rate of sales to minors has not been decreasing. This is an area of emphasis for staff.
- Met with the CEO of People's Health Center to establish a timeline and processes for the Health Center to implement a tobacco-free campus. This process includes assisting staff to quit using tobacco.

- Addressed smoking complaints from the public: smoking too close to entrances; smoke drifting to apartments in multi-unit housing complexes; assessing compliance with outdoor smoking areas.
- Assisted with the Fire Safe Landlord training where 11 landlords representing 3,031 living units learned how to implement smoke-free policies in their housing complexes.
- Worked with the partner from El Centro to provide presentations on tobacco cessation to multi-language parent groups at Prescott, Elliott, and McPhee schools.
- Worked with the partner from El Centro to assist Spanish-speaking owners/managers of multi-unit living facilities to consider and/or implement smoke-free housing policies.
- Provided tobacco prevention education and cessation information to multiple employee and public groups in the community.
- Worked with administration/clinical staff from Nebraska Urban Indian Center, People's Health Center and Health 360, People's City Mission Clinic, Clinic with a Hearth, and LLCHD to assess how they are promoting and using the Nebraska Tobacco Quit Line with the goal to increase referrals to the Quit Line. In addition to being a priority for our tobacco staff, this is also a priority of Tobacco Free Nebraska and the CDC.
- Contacted and/or met with multi-unit housing property owners/managers to educate on the smoke-free housing registry and add properties to the registry if smoke-free.
- Continue to assist Lincoln Housing Authority in creating smoke-free facilities. Smoke free policies have implemented in four LHA owned facilities.
- Implemented the Photo-Voice tobacco prevention project for youth with the Salvation Army, Boys and Girls Club, and Clyde Malone Community Center.
- Presented tobacco prevention and second hand smoke information to high school parenting group.
- Provided a presentation on electronic smoking devices to the Board of Health.

Staff and their partners meet monthly through the Tobacco Free Lancaster County Coalition to review workplans, ensure goals are being met, strategize activities to address the indicators, and determine how to even more aggressively make tobacco use a thing of the past for our population.

INFORMATION & FISCAL MANAGEMENT

The Health Department's FY 2017 and FY 2018 Budget request was submitted to the City Budget Office on March 4th. The next steps will be a meeting between Department staff and the City Budget Officer on March 30th.

IFM Division Manager (HIPAA Privacy Officer), City Attorney for HIPAA and the City HIPAA Security Officer will conduct HIPAA training for Health Department staff on April 20, 2016. The training will be recorded and then available to use with new staff and for refresher training.

Work is progressing on updating and uploading department policies to an on-line resource. One division has completed their policies. Two additional divisions are nearing completion. We anticipate that by the end of May, policies from five division will be loaded and ready to roll out to staff. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by September.

