

DEPARTMENT REPORT

APRIL, 2016

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Board of Health Annual Luncheon and Awards Ceremony was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at Bryan Health East – Conference Center. Board of Health Awards included:

Community Awards – the University Health Center, the Nebraska Pharmacists Association and AAA and the Cornhusker Motor Club Foundation.

Food Sanitation Excellence Awards – Cracker Barrel Country Store and Kawasaki Motors Mfg. Corp., U.S.A.

John J. Hanigan Distinguished Service Award – Jason A. Kruger, MD

Public Health Leadership Award – Stephen R. Frederick

Carole Douglas Public Health Achievement Award – Gray R. Bergstrom, Jr.

The Board of Health reappointments of Michelle Petersen, MD and Tom Randa were presented to the Lincoln City Council and Lancaster County Board of Commissioners.

The Health Director attended the University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Public Health's 10 Year Anniversary Celebration Dinner.

The Health Director and City Purchasing Agent met with the Capital Humane Society Director to work out final details of the Animal Shelter Contract. The proposed contract is a four year contract with an option to renew for an additional four years.

The Health Director continues to meet with City Purchasing on the proposed permanent Hazardous Waste Facility.

The Health Director participated in the interview process for the Lincoln Fire & Rescue Chief. Michel Despain from Clovis, California, was selected to serve as the next Fire & Rescue Chief.

The Health Director continues to serve on the Community Health Endowment Board of Trustees and Funding Committee. The Funding Committee is reviewing grant proposals for the coming year.

The Health Director coordinated a pre-opening tour for Mayor Beutler and Mayoral Aide Molly Burton of the Health 360 Clinic.

The Health Director met with multiple agencies and Lower Platte South Natural Resources personnel to discuss the Salt Creek Levee and potential emergency response.

Health Department professional staff hosted a potluck luncheon for support staff on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 in honor of Administrative Professionals Day.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control Stats

	Sep 13- Mar 14	Sep 14- Mar 15	Sep 15- Mar 16
Pet Licenses Sold	37320	37457	38614
Cases Dispatched	13064	13512	13410
Investigation	14090	14486	14767
Animals Impounded			
Dogs	802	783	
Cats	692	718	
Court Citations Issued	229	191	219
Warnings/Defects Issued	9799	9925	9871
Bite Cases Reported	228	250	266
Attack Cases Reported	22	29	22
Dogs Declared Pot. Dangerous	39	32	46
Dangerous Dogs	5	12	18
Animal Neglect Investigations	340	316	320
Injured Animal Rescue	337	376	403
Wildlife Removal	198	220	272
Dead Animal Pickup	848	1025	1054
Lost and Found Reports	1141	1232	1231
Phone Calls	24208	24516	28657
Average Response Time (in mins)	19	21	18

Calls for service continue to increase, however calls dispatched remains fairly stable when compared to the past two years. As the weather continues to get warmer, Animal Control will get busier and the numbers will reflect that. We are pleased to see dog and cat license sales increasing. License follow ups and attention to license defects helps improve the overall license sales.

The Animal Control Advisory Committee Chair and Animal Control staff are planning a brief presentation to the Board of Health for either June or August.

Animal Control will participate in the 2016 “Waterfest” at Holmes Lake on Saturday, June 4, 2016. We will have a booth and will distribute our educational materials on licensing, vaccinating, general pet care and small containers that hold pet waste bags. This is the third year Animal Control has participated in the event, the attendance is good and the event provides a lot of visibility for Lincoln Animal Control.

Staff are working on four different projects some of which will be selected as Quality Improvement projects for the Division. They include; Customer Service, Permits and Inspections, License Defect Follow-ups and Trap Rental and Procedures.

The new Animal Control Dispatch software system is getting closer to implementation. The new system will move Animal Control Dispatch and Field Service Operations from an old mainframe system to a server-based system, allowing for more control of the officers working in the field to complete reports on location, provide dispatchers with a wider range of options and a better more advanced reporting system for the Department.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Child Abuse Prevention

Program Goal: No more than 5% of children will have substantiated reports of child maltreatment.

Outcomes of LLCHD & CEDARS Youth Services’ Healthy Families America Home Visitation Program via a sample of all families served:

- *Federal Fiscal Year 2013-2014: 3.3%*
- *Federal Fiscal Year 2014-2015: 1.5%*

Child abuse prevention begins in the home. Home visiting programs are proven methods to help connect at-risk parents to the resources they need to assure the safety, emotional health, and physical development of their children. April was National Child Abuse Prevention Month. To increase awareness about the problem of child abuse and prevention, our very own Healthy Families America program worked with Channel 10 Health, the Child Advocacy Center, and Lincoln City Libraries to produce a Shape of the City segment. The full video is also available on our website: <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/nurse/hfa.htm>.

CHS is also partnering with Lincoln City Libraries and Prosper Lincoln to encourage caregivers to read to or with the children in their lives ***15 minutes each day***. A 2 minute segment with this message was added to April’s Shape of the City episode: <https://youtu.be/SgPRHphF2I8>.

Staff involved in these public education efforts include: Kodi Bonesteel, Janel Binder, Samia Ayoub (and her sons), Ashley Johnson (and her sons), Lindsey Cassler (and her daughter and son), and Corrine Jarecke. A huge thank you to staff for their successes in home visitation and for producing this important promotional video!

DENTAL HEALTH & NUTRITION

WIC

Caseload (Participation)

Total	3898
Main	2985
Cornhusker Clinic	913
%Enrolled with Benefits	85.6%

	LLCHD	State of Nebraska
Total Women	959 (24.6%)	8625(22.9%)
Total Children	1984 (50.8%)	19923 (52.9%)
Total Infants	886 (22.7%)	9061 (24.0%)
Infants Receiving Breastmilk	297 (33.5%)	2671 (29.4%)
Infants Exclusive Breastmilk	114 (12.8%)	1050 (11.5%)

Mentoring:

(Number and school)

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

Our March caseload was 3898 participants. This is our highest caseload so far for FFY2016. Our current fiscal year average is 3775 participants per month. We have seen a 7% increase in participation in the last six months at our newly renovated clinic space at 27th and Cornhusker.

Dental Health

Dental Clinical Services:

- Total number of clients served (unduplicated count): 555
- Total number of patient encounters (duplicated client count): 740
- Total number of patient visits (duplicated provider appointments/visits): 1014
- Total number of Racial/Ethnic and White Non-English speaking patients: 423 (76%)
- Total number of children served: 355 (64%)
- Total number of clients enrolled in Medicaid: 391 (70%)
- Number of clients served during Thursday evening hours (unduplicated count): 71
- Number of patient encounters during Thursday evening hours (duplicated client count): 73

- Number of patient visits during Thursday evening hours (duplicated provider appointments/visits): 122
- Total number of Racial/Ethnic and White Non-English speaking patients: 49 (69%)
- Number of children served during Thursday evening hours: 70 (99%)
- Number of patients enrolled in Medicaid: 61 (86%)

Community Based Dental Outreach Activities

Fluoride Varnish and Screening Program:

- North WIC Office (27th & Cornhusker Highway): 14 children and parents
- LLCHD WIC Office: 9 children and parents

School Based Program:

19 children identified with urgent care needs were provided free transportation and treatment services (10 children enrolled in Medicaid; 9 children uninsured; 14 children of racial and ethnic minorities (74%); 3 children with language barriers (16%).

- 6 children from Elliott Elementary School with 9 patient encounters for a total of 10 provider visits.
- 5 children from Everett Elementary School with 5 patient encounters for a total of 8 provider visits.
- 8 children from McPhee Elementary School 13 patient encounters for a total of 16 provider visits.

Student Rotation Program:

- UNMC Dental Hygiene Student rotations: 4
- UNMC Dental Student rotation: 1
- Southeast Community College Dental Assisting student rotations: 1

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Water Quality: Public Swimming Pools & Certified Pool Operator Training

Purpose

Protect human health by preventing waterborne illness.

Water Quality Indicator

80% of swimming pools and spas meet health and safety regulations at time of inspection (do not have significant health and safety violations).

Strategies/Methods (What we do)

Train Pool Operators & Water Quality Testers; issue permits; review newly proposed or modified pools/spas; conduct pre-opening inspections for all seasonal pools; conduct inspections; take enforcement actions.

Funding/Source

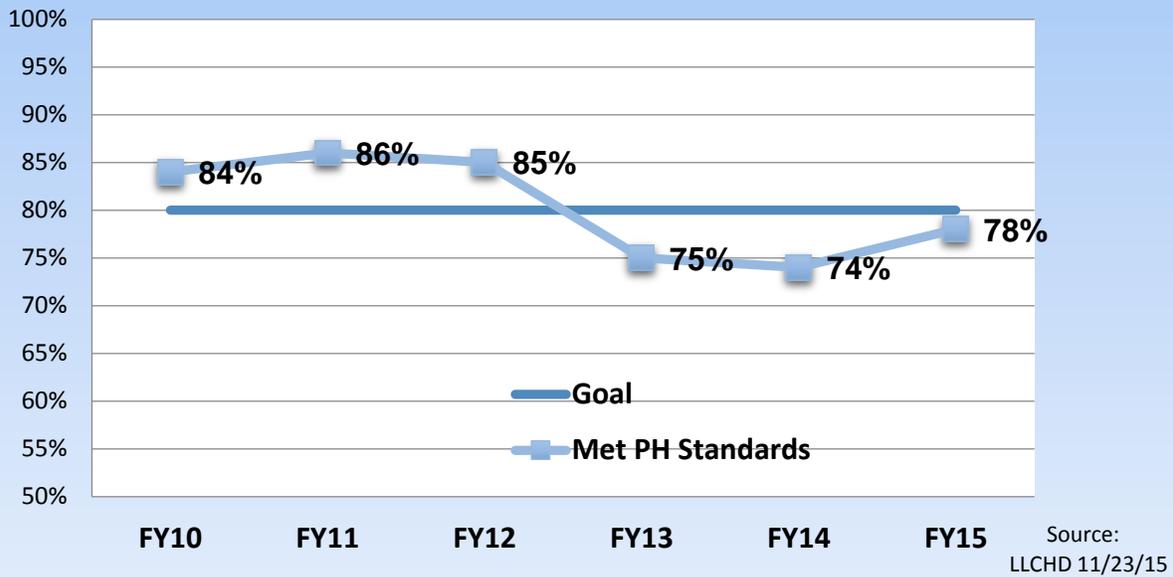
100% user fee funded

Percent of Pools Meeting Health and Safety Standards at time of inspection

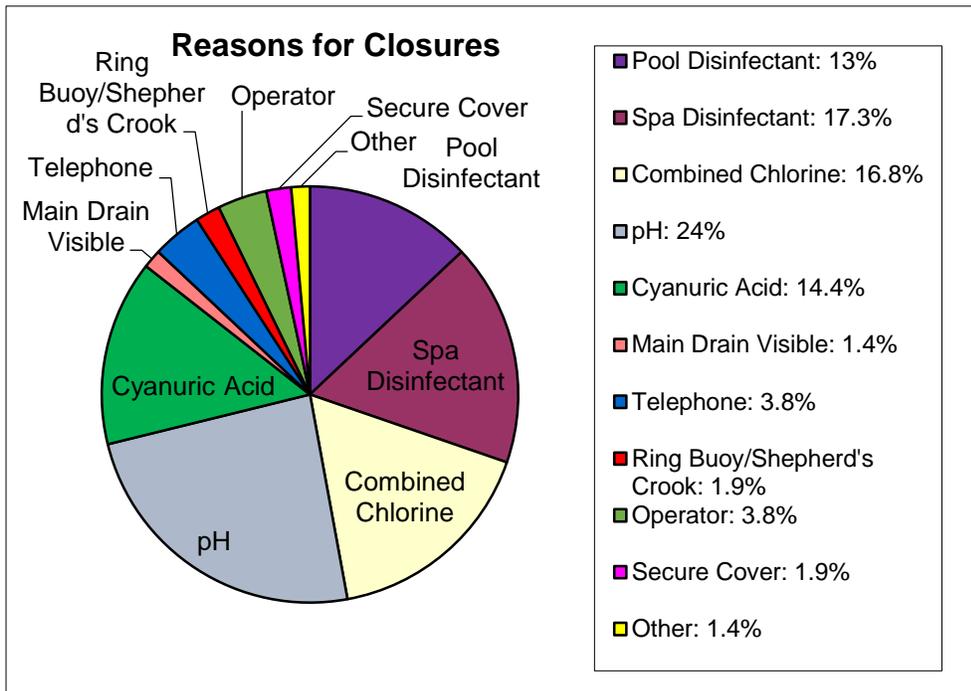
In FY15, 22% of pools did not meet public health standards, as slight improvement over the previous two years.



Public Swimming Pools % Meeting Public Health Standards



The main reasons for closure were violations of health risk based water quality standards, including inadequate disinfectant levels, pH (too high or low), high combined chlorine levels and high cyanuric acid levels.



Description

Lincoln ordinance requires all public swimming pools to be: built to regulations; permitted; inspected; operated by a trained Lincoln Pool Operator; and tested regularly for water quality by a certified Lincoln Pool Water Quality Tester (as of January 2015). In FY15, 220 pools/spas were permitted, 616 inspections were performed, 608 people were trained to be Pool Operators and 250 people were trained and received a two year permit (\$20) as a Lincoln Pool Water



Quality Tester. The permit fee for a pool was \$375 in FY15 and is \$385 in FY16. Pool operators were charged \$60 for training, which includes their two year permit fee. All program costs for conducting inspections, investigating complaints and training were 100% user fee funded. Seasonal public swimming pools and spas are inspected prior to opening and at least twice each year. Year round pools are inspected at least twice per year.

In FY 15, 78% of pools met health and safety regulations at the time of inspection, thus 22% of regular inspections found violations which resulted in the pool being temporarily closed due to significant health and safety violations. This is slightly better than the last two years. To reduce these health risks, the pool ordinance now requires that any person that tests public swimming pool water must have LLCHD training, pass a test, and hold a permit as a Lincoln Water Quality Tester or Pool Operator. Pool water must be tested before opening and at a minimum every 4 hours to assure compliance with these health risk based water quality standards. Pools which may present a higher risk of recreational waterborne outbreaks of disease are inspected more frequently. All public swimming pools must have a Lincoln Swimming Pool Operator and the Health Department provides this training. Regular inspections serve as an opportunity to interact with the pool operator and help assure that chemical levels are at optimal levels to reduce the threat of recreational water illnesses (RWIs). Based on CDC data, as the swimming season progresses, the risk of RWIs, such as Cryptosporidium and Giardia, increases. Large outbreaks of swimming pool related Cryptosporidiosis occurred across the U.S. the last several years. Fortunately, Lincoln did not have any outbreaks of pool related diseases in 2015.

Partnerships & Efficiencies

The Nebraska Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has delegated regulation of public swimming pools and Pool Operator training to LLCHD, assuring efficient use of government resources.

HEALTH DATA & EVALUATION

This has been a very active time for exercises. On April 13th there was a city-wide full-scale exercise to address a plane crash scenario that included well over 200 participants. The exercise meets the requirement by the Blue Angels for the upcoming May air show. On April 21st, there was a tabletop exercise to address how the community would recover from an event such as the crash and it focused on the services of the department, behavioral health providers, the American Red Cross, and other community partners. Randy Fischer, Public Health Emergency Response Coordinator, helped Lancaster County Emergency Management, LFR, the hospitals, and other community partners in planning and conducting these exercises.

Also, on April 28th, Randy Fischer facilitated an active shooter exercise for staff from the community's childcare centers. Randy had conducted active shooter exercises for the Lancaster County and Southeast Nebraska Healthcare Coalitions and was asked by Gina Egenberger to conduct one for the childcare centers as the center directors had felt there was need for such an exercise given the environment. With the participants numbering over 90, there obviously was an interest.

The after-action reports (AAR) for all exercises with improvement plans are available, including the two other tabletop exercises that had been conducted in January.

Raju Kakarlapudi, Public Health Epidemiologist, has recently worked with the City departments to update the Taking Charge dashboard. He has also been working on the Department's performance management system. All staff from the HDE Division are also focused on documenting information and processes for the various domains and required documentation needed for PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board) accreditation.

After a late surge in flu cases in Lincoln and Lancaster County in February and March, it appears the flu activity for this season peaked during the week of March 26th. The weekly graphs posted on the website (<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/data/flu/WeeklyFluGraphs.pdf>) show the recent decline and we hope to see fewer cases until next fall. RSV cases have also declined in the past few weeks.

As for other communicable disease cases, we have had a recent increase in the number of TB cases. Communicable disease staff are busy with directly observed therapy (DOT) for four cases to be sure that the persons with TB take the prescribed medication for the required length of time. (Adherence to the required duration of antibiotic treatment reduces the chances for an antibiotic-resistant strain of TB to arise.)

Lastly, there continues to be concerns about the Zika virus, and we are working with providers to have travelers from the affected countries tested for the virus. There's also a link to the CDC's latest information on the Health Department's Featured Links. Other than cases in Puerto Rico, there have been no cases contracted in the U.S. or territories, but that is likely to change as the weather warms up in the southern U.S. and mosquitoes are active. The best way to avoid contracting Zika is to prevent being bitten and to avoid travel to those countries where the virus is spreading.

HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH

Chronic Disease Reduction

Staff coordinated a spring "Walk to School Day" safety and physical activity event at Prescott Elementary School for 550 students in grades K – 5. Children participated in activities that included safely crossing a street, being safe around large trucks, and participating in a physical activity with the PE teacher. Spring is a great time to do these types of learning activities since more children walk or bike to school in the warmer weather. This particular walk to school event was requested by the Prescott School principal.

Staff provided pedestrian and bicycle safety information to 125 children and parents of Clinton Elementary at the school's annual health and wellness fair.

Colon cancer is one of only a few cancers that can be prevented through the use of screening tests, yet it remains the second most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women in Nebraska. The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Departments is a leader in the Lancaster Crusade Against Cancer (Crusade) Coalition, a partnership of community agencies, organizations and volunteers who work together to increase colon cancer awareness in the community and promote compliance with screening recommendations. During March and April, colon cancer awareness and screening activities included a community wide outreach and media campaign, health-care provider outreach and pharmacy distribution of over 1,000 free colon cancer screening kits.

The number of people being screened in the Lincoln community has increased due to the work of the Crusade. More and more people are taking advantage of insurance coverage of a preventive colonoscopy screening, but some people still prefer screening annually with a home test called a Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) through the Crusade's collaborative awareness efforts. You don't have time for colon cancer. Take the time to get screened. For more information on colon cancer screening, visit: www.lincoln.ne.gov, keyword: colon cancer.

Mayor Chris Beutler officially opened the N Street Cycle Track at on Saturday, April 23 during a celebration where those in attendance were invited to use the new bikeway to travel from 23rd and N Street to the Railyard, "Q" Street and Canopy Drive. The Cube at the Railyard featured Share the Road PSA's to encourage pedestrians, bikers and motorist to all share the road – as it is all of our responsibilities to help get all to get home safely.

"As the home of Nebraska's first protected bikeway of its kind, Lincoln is becoming a model for healthy living and transportation alternatives in the country," Mayor Beutler said. "Even before the Cycle Track opened, People for Bikes ranked it number four on its list of "America's 10 Best New Bike Lanes! This project is also another great example of a successful partnership, with funds coming from both the public and private sectors, including a \$340,000 donation from our great partners at the Great Plains Trails Network."

The Cycle Track, which runs from S. 23rd Street to Pinnacle Bank Arena Drive, has been open since December. The two-way bike lane is separated from traffic with green paint, curbs, medians and on-street parking. Every intersection has traffic control devices for cyclists, motorists and pedestrians. The Mayor said opening it in the winter has given the City an opportunity to make adjustments. The City has added more striping and reflective plastic tubes to keep motorized traffic out of the bike lanes. Landscaping will be finished this spring. The Mayor said opening the Cycle Track in December also gave the public an opportunity to learn more about it before warmer weather brings more cyclists into downtown. Instructional videos and information for cyclists, motorists and pedestrians are available at www.lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: N Street).

Injury Prevention

Staff presented child passenger safety seat information to 35 nursing students at Southeast Community College Nursing Program in preparation for them to volunteer at our next three child passenger safety events in April and May.

Staff coordinated a car seat check event at Anderson Ford South where nine certified child passenger safety technicians checked 17 car seats. Seven seats were provided to families in need. Sponsors of this event were the LLCHD Healthy Families America Program, Nebraska Office of Highway Safety, and SKLLC.

INFORMATION & FISCAL MANAGEMENT

No Report.